

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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INSIDE



Cancelled Flights

Five U.S.-bound flights from Britain and France were canceled Saturday because of security concerns. The U.S. government said it had fresh indications of al-Qaida's continued interest in targeting commercial planes flying to the United States.

Page 13



US Fatalities

Three U.S. soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division were killed Saturday in a roadside bombing near the northern oil center of Kirkuk. Their deaths brought to 522 the number of American service members who have died since the Iraq war began March 20.

Page 17

VIRTUE OF THE WEEK

Idealism

"Let your acts be a guide unto all mankind... Through them the brightness of your light can be shed upon the whole earth."

—Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 521

See Page 13

Land compensation funds out

CDA, MPLA to release initial money to landowners



MISS TEEN ASPIRANTS

Miss Teen CNMI 2003 Remeylyn Julene Guerrero, with crown, poses with this year's Saipan candidates, who were presented to the public Saturday. They are, from left, Chanel Cabrera, Divana Dela Cruz, Christal Leon Guerrero, Jerbeth De Leon, and Jocelyn Castro. Candidates from Rota and Tinian will be presented at a later date. *Story on Page 5.*

EDITH ALEJANDRO

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

Some landowners will finally get their much-awaited compensation this week, possibly beginning today and tomorrow.

CDA board chairman Sixto Igisomar said that he and CDA executive director Mary Lou Ada had signed the request for the first drawdown of the bond money at Bank of Guam last Thursday.

"It should be available by next week," he said after Saturday's board meeting.

Igisomar declined to reveal the initial withdrawal, but sources said that it amounts to some \$5 million.

Igisomar said the initial release should have actually taken place last week but CDA officials were on an urgent trip to Palau.

He said the Marianas Public Lands Authority has already sent CDA a letter asking why its initial request was not acted upon.

"MPLA got frustrated because I was not in town to sign off the request, but that trip to Palau, which required our presence, had been scheduled," he said.

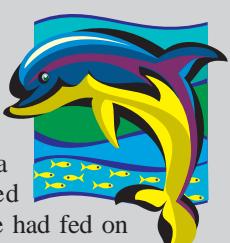
Igisomar and Ada, who were the only CDA officials authorized to sign for the bond money withdrawals, were part of the team that went to Palau last week to

See LAND on Page 8

Dead dolphin found to have fed on seagrass

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

Are dolphins on CNMI's waters starving?



An autopsy conducted on a dolphin showed that the creature had fed on seagrass, indicating that it may have had difficulty in catching fish for its prey.

Dolphins are fast-moving aquatic mammals, the jaws of which contain as many as 250 conical teeth. Their teeth are adapted for ripping and tearing prey, not for chewing.

See DEAD on Page 8

Most ex-SU students are now factory workers

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

Former Saipan University students ended up as contract workers, working mostly now in garment factories after the government issued them temporary work authorizations or TWAs.

Left to themselves, the former students are barely making both ends

meet after they were asked to vacate an SU-assigned housing late last month.

Wang Rui, who has served as spokesperson for the group, said he and a friend share a small room in Chalan Kanoa.

He said he could survive because he borrowed \$200 from a former classmate who has found work ahead of him.

Wang, a former electrical firm manager in China, said that he is still

waiting for a prospective employer to call him in. He said, though, that his potential work is not exactly related to his field.

Wang said that as far he knows, most of the 84 former SU students have found work on island. "Most of them are working in garment factory," said Wang.

Wang said they have decided to stay on island pending the resolution of their

See MOST on Page 8

CDA to NMC: Clarify position on Gateway funding

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority wants Northern Marianas College to be single-minded on which agency it actually wants to deal with for its funding needs for the Pacific Gateway Project.

NMC is currently speaking with at least three local agencies—Marianas Public Lands Trust, NMI Retirement Fund, and the CDA—for interim financing for the project, while also seeking a direct loan with the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development.

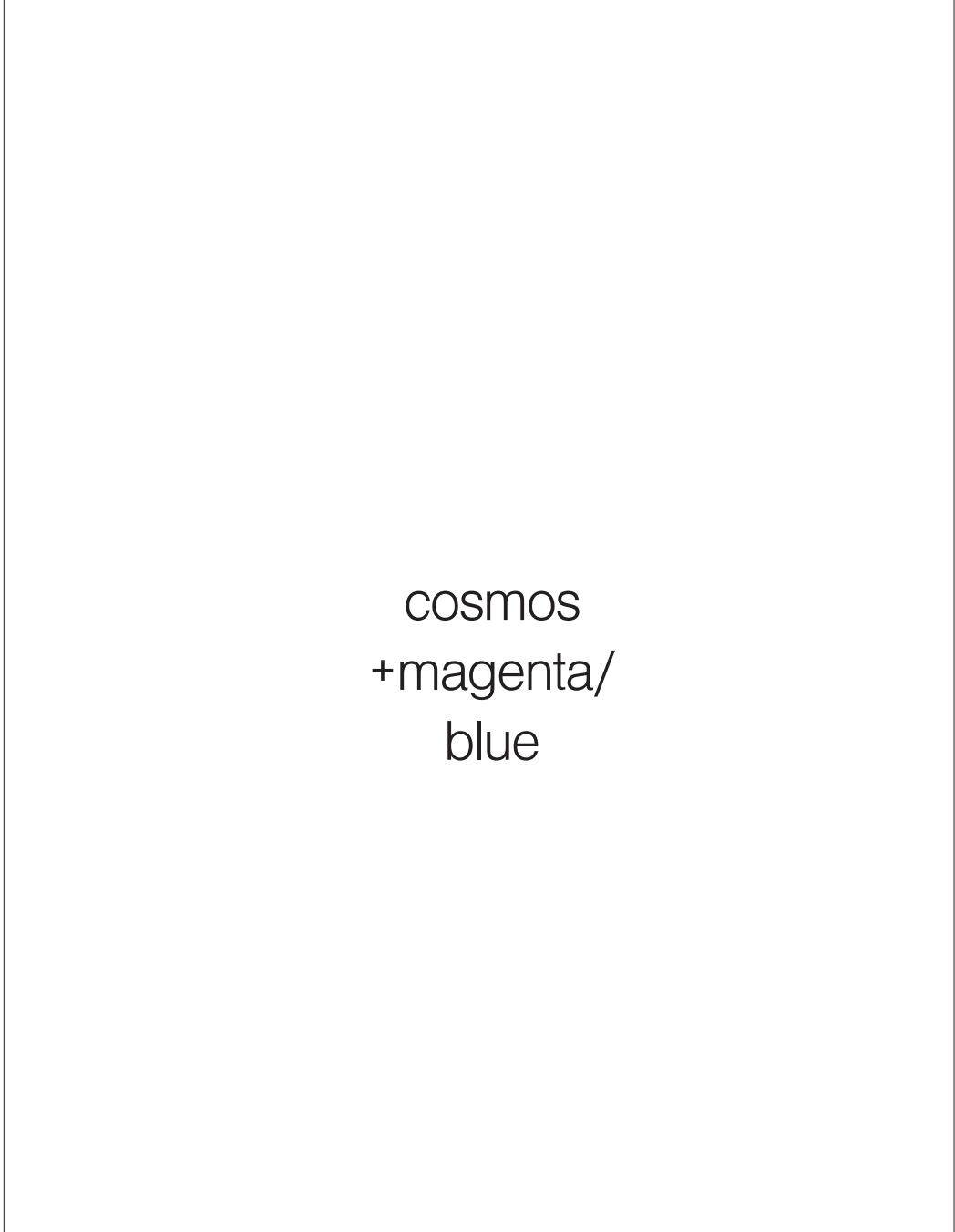
"We want to know where they [NMC] are. If NMC wants MPLT or

NMIRF, go ahead. Don't negotiate with more people because it's going to cost government assets. It would require evaluation and this means spending for the project," said CDA board chairman Sixto Igisomar.

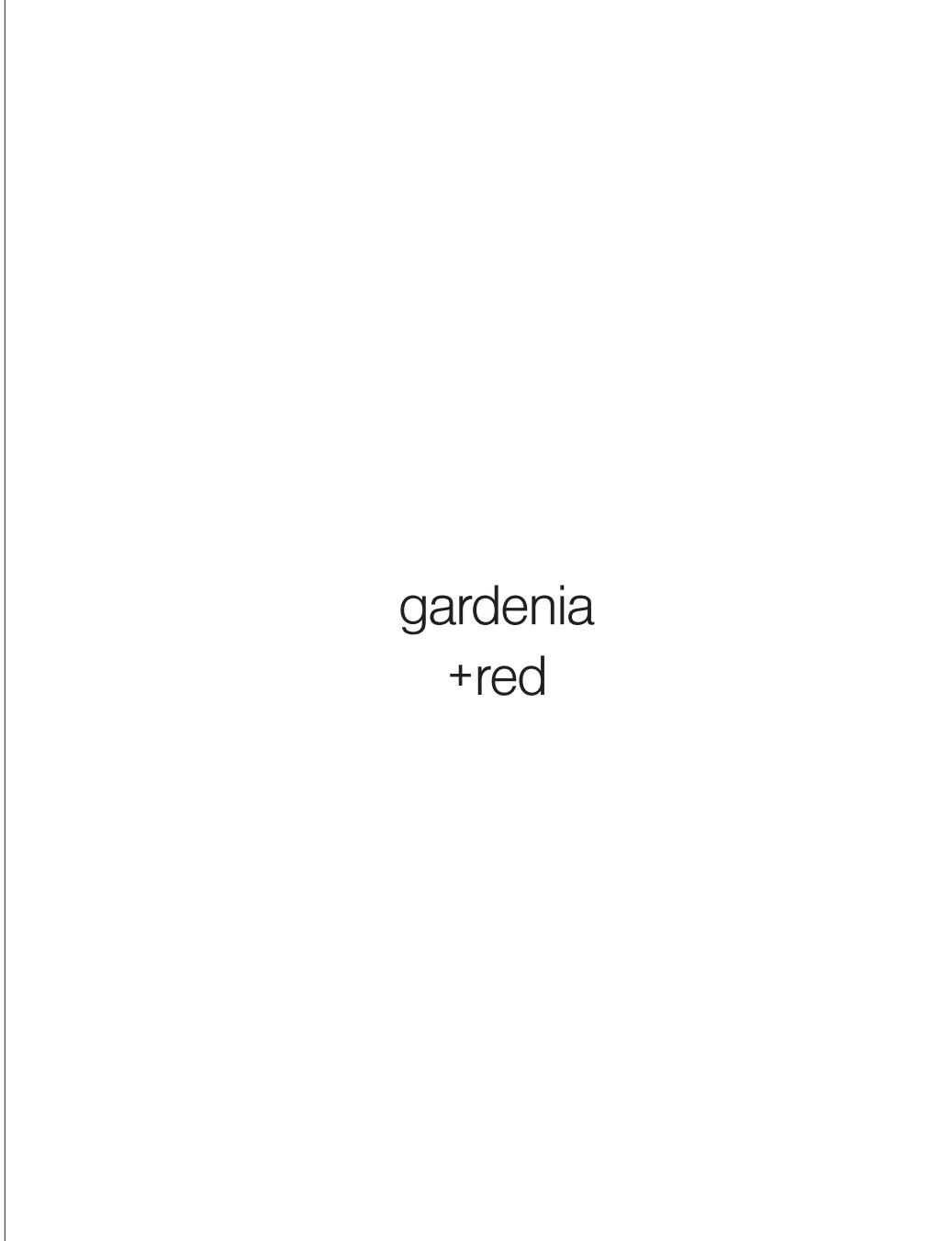
He said CDA "is willing to be the last resort."

See CDA on Page 8

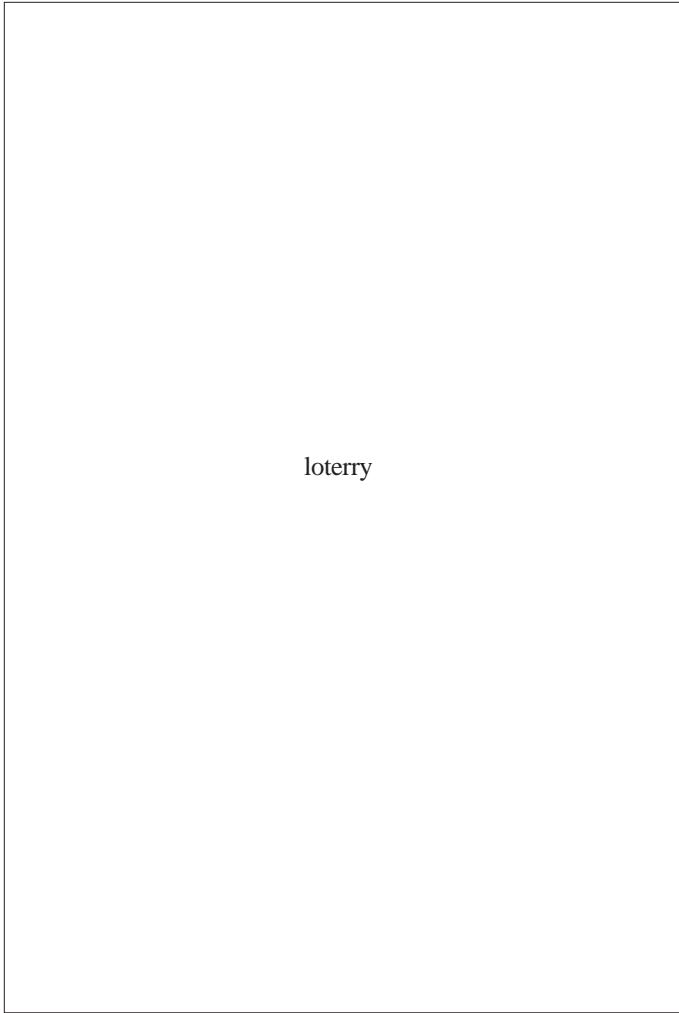
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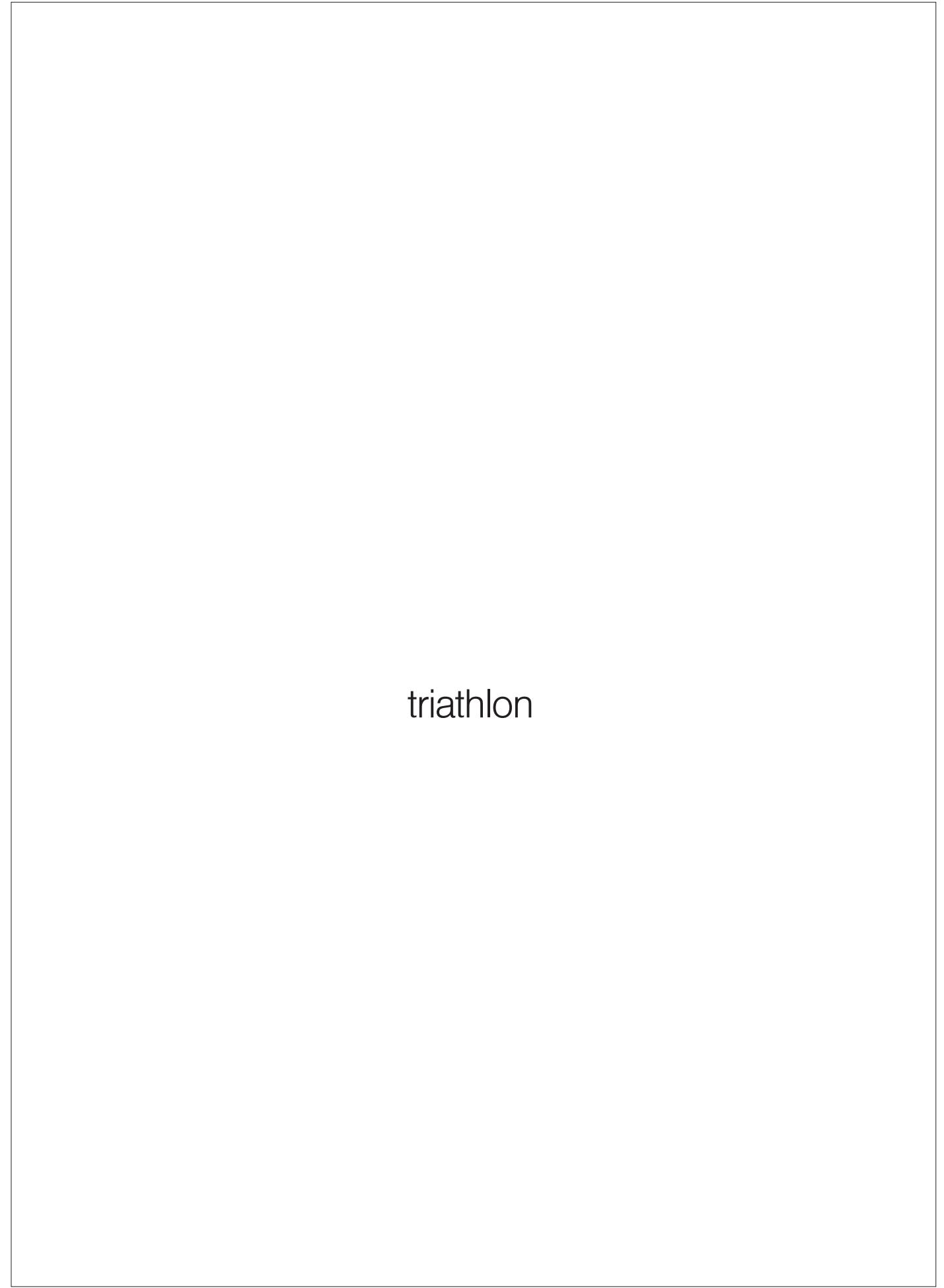
cosmos
+magenta/
blue



gardenia
+red

A large, empty rectangular box occupies the left third of the page, spanning from approximately y=620 to y=970.

lottery

A large, empty rectangular box occupies the right two-thirds of the page, spanning from approximately y=335 to y=970.

triathlon

CDA: No findings yet on Palau Air

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority board of directors has begun its feasibility study on Palau Micronesia Air following the CNMI's commitment to invest \$500,000 in the newly established airline.

CDA officials, who flew to Palau last week, said the agency has yet to make a full evaluation of the project.

CDA board chairman Sixto Igosmar, who convened a board meeting Saturday, said the issue is now being handled by a joint panel: the public finance committee headed by member Edwin Hofsneider and the economic development committee headed by Tom Quitugua.

"The board has not fully evaluated the project. We'll wait for the recommendation by the joint committee," said Igosmar.

Igosmar said the board, together with CDA executive director Mary Lou Ada, had a "very hectic" three-day visit to Palau as part of the project evaluation.

He said the CDA team met with Palau government leaders led by President Tommy Remengesau, as well as Palau Micronesia Air executives.

He said that CDA will forward its findings to the

Governor's Office as soon as possible.

The CNMI Legislature earlier approved a joint resolution supporting the release of \$500,000 to PMA. In particular, the Legislature tasked CDA to borrow the money on behalf of the government from a regional bank, Pacific Islands Development Bank. The money would be used to buy 5,000 shares of capital stock from the airline firm.

Under the resolution, the CNMI government will shoulder the loan repayments.

The resolution also listed conditional provisions before the CDA can proceed with the borrowing:

- CDA must first evaluate the propriety and prudence of borrowing the half-million dollars, and identify where the money to repay the loan would come from.

- The funding source for the repayment of the loan must be approved by the Legislature through a bill.

- The legal ownership of the stocks may be vested in the CNMI government or in any of its constituent entities.

- The Palau government has to first put up the \$1 million it has committed to the new airline firm before the CNMI releases its investment share.

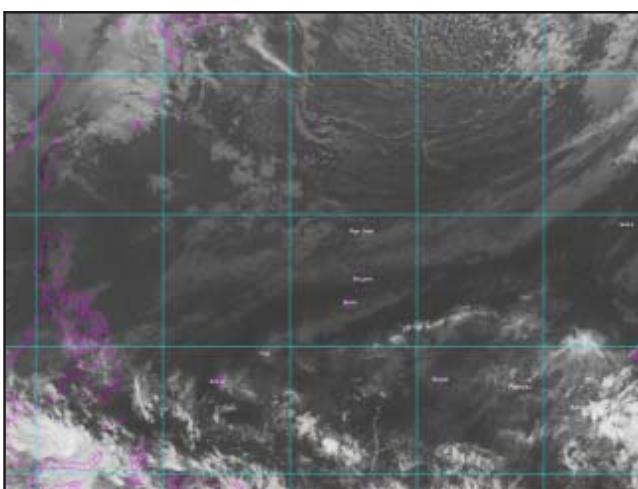
The CNMI government's half-million-dollar equity investment in the new airline would entitle it to 10 percent of the company's shares of common stocks and two seats on the firm's Board of Directors.

Airline president Alan R. Seid said the money is needed to start the company, build the profit margin, and provide a strong reserve for the future.

Palau Micronesia Air is a corporation chartered under the laws of the Republic of Palau. It had issued 50,000 shares of stocks valued at \$100 per share, for a total initial capitalization of \$5 million.

The airline firm has been seeking subscribers for its stocks from among governments and individuals in the region. So far it has obtained commitments for \$1.52 million in initial investment from private sources in Palau and Japan; \$500,000 from the Yapese government; \$1 million commitment from the Palauan government as a portion of Palau's pending loan from the International Commercial Bank of China (Taiwan); \$500,000 commitment from the Pohnpeian government; and \$600,000 reserved for subscription by people in the region.

WEATHER FORECAST



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 A.M., FEBRUARY 1, 2004
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough stretches from near 2n137e to the equator near 152e. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough are located south of Palau and Yap between the Equator and 5n from 130e to 144e. A weak trough of low pressure stretches from 7n167e to the equator near 170e. The trough combined with trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers in the southern Marshall Islands south of Majuro between the Equator and 6n from 167e to 180. A frontal system extends southwestward from near 25n157e to near 18n145e then continues as a shear line to near 14n130e. Extensive low clouds and widespread light showers are occurring along and up to 300 miles north of the boundary. Ahead of this boundary...an area of low clouds with light showers are occurring across the Mariana Islands.



SAIPAN AND TINIAN

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 mph.



GUAM AND ROTA

Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 mph.



PALAU

Partly cloudy.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 kt.



POHNPEI

Partly cloudy.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 kt.



YAP AND ULITHI

Partly cloudy.
Winds: Northeast 10-15 kt.



KOSRAE

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 15 kt.



CHUUK

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 15 kt.



MAJURO

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: East at 15-20 kt.

CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
Auckland	Cloudy	76F (24C)	61F (16C)
Beijing	Rain	45F (7C)	25F (-4C)
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	66F (19C)	59F (15C)
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83F (28C)	71F (22C)
London, England	Partly Cloudy	52F (11C)	46F (8C)
Los Angeles	Sunny	66F (19C)	44F (7C)
Manila	Partly Cloudy	86F (30C)	68F (20C)
Melbourne	Cloudy	69F (21C)	46F (8C)
Miami	Rain	80F (27C)	64F (18C)
New York City	Sunny	32F (0C)	24F (-4C)
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	42F (6C)	25F (-4C)
Paris	Partly Cloudy	49F (9C)	41F (5C)
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	53F (12C)	38F (3C)
Rome	Cloudy	54F (12C)	45F (7C)
Salem, Oregon	Showers	46F (8C)	38F (3C)
San Francisco	Cloudy	53F (12C)	48F (9C)
Seoul	Cloudy	43F (4C)	25F (-4C)
Tokyo, Japan	Partly Cloudy	42F (6C)	32F (0C)
Washington, DC	Sunny	34F (1C)	24F (-4C)

2004 Miss Teen CNMI candidates presented

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

Give way to the five Saipan candidates vying for the 2004 Miss Teen CNMI crown as they unveiled their plans, dreams, and hopes in joining this year's competition.

The five candidates were presented to the public Saturday at the Multi-Purpose Center, where they took center stage to talk about how they plan to help the CNMI's youths through various community-based activities.

This year's candidates are Divana Dela Cruz, Christal Leon Guerrero, Chanel Cabrera, Jerbeth De Leon, and Jocelyn Castro. Winners of the Miss Teen Tinian and Miss Teen Rota would be joining the Saipan candidates during the April 17, 2004 coronation night.

According to Miss Teen CNMI president Noby Crisostomo, Tinian and Rota would have their own Ms. Teen contests—a first—and winners of these contests would be sent to Saipan for the Miss Teen CNMI tilt.

With this year's theme "Bonitas de Islas Marianas," Crisostomo hopes to highlight during the pageant the Spanish influence on the local culture.

"This year's theme is Spanish so we can highlight that part of our culture and tradition that was imparted by the Spaniards. We also hope to bring here what we learned from the Miss Antillas beauty contest," Crisostomo explained.

Miss Teen CNMI 2003 Remeylyn Julene Guerrero had competed in the Miss Antillas International Beauty Pageant in Venezuela, where she won second place.

Also present during the media presentation Saturday was House Rep. Janet Maratita, who advised all contestants to face their fears and mistakes. Maratita also vowed to find ways on how to make Miss Teen CNMI candidates active in various community events.

Crisostomo said that after the coronation night on April 17, the 2004 Miss Teen-CNMI would fly to Venezuela the following month to compete in the 2004 Miss Antilles International.

He added that winners in the 2004 Miss Teen-CNMI should be physically and mentally prepared to represent the Northern Marianas in the international pageant.

Ms. Teen-CNMI—the local pageant search that capitalizes on the islands' attractive and spirited school-aged girls—was revived in 2002 after five years of dormancy.

Previous winners of the contest are Anita Jones Ayuyu, Cecilia Masga, Cecilia Taitano, Marian V. Pangalinan, and Gina Torres Duenas.



Chanel Cabrera, 15
Marianas High School

At 15, Chanel stands 5'9 and a firm believer that if the CNMI is safe, tourists would continue to come in. She believes that the CNMI should be kept beautiful and safe and once tourists are here, they can be introduced to the local culture and traditions. She believes that the CNMI should be exposed to the world.



Divana Dela Cruz, 16
Marianas High School

If she is crowned Miss Teen CNMI 2004, Divana hopes to organize a group that would help prevent suicide among the youth. Divana said flyers would be passed around to raise awareness in the community.



Jerbeth De Leon, 16
Marianas High School

Jerbeth is focusing on peer pressure as a problem she believes should be resolved to prevent teens from being involved in alcohol, tobacco, and drug abuse. She said peer pressure comes in different forms and shapes and continues to haunt the younger generation.



Jocelyn Castro, 17
Kagman High School

Jocelyn joined the contest to build her self-esteem and self-confidence but if she wins, she hopes to work with students with disabilities and help families caring for people with disabilities. Jocelyn said it is hard for parents who have children with disabilities but with proper help, people with disabilities and their families would be more up to meeting these challenges head on.

Christal Leon
Guerrero, 15
Kagman High School

Christal said that if she wins, she would do her best to join and establish organizations that would prevent domestic violence in the Commonwealth. Christal will also try her best to promote the local culture.



cars

Opinion

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Military one-upmanship

Now that the White House has released a copy of a Jan. 6, 1973, dental exam with a chart of President Bush's teeth when he was at the Dannelly Field Air National Guard base in Alabama, it must come as a relief to dentists—and other Americans—to learn that Bush was taking good care of his choppers as a young man.

This is the so-called best that the still-young presidential race is offering. The White House desperately tries to rebut Democratic charges that the president failed to fulfill his service in the National Guard. Republicans seek to portray Vietnam vet John Kerry, who won a Silver Star, as a traitor for joining the antiwar movement. The loser is the public.

The White House certainly didn't help itself with its handling of the issue. Bush promised in an interview Sunday with NBC's Tim Russert to release all documents about his National Guard service, but the White House later waffled. In addition, Bush inflated the rigors of his own service by likening it to that of members of the National Guard currently in Iraq.

Democrats succumbed to retaliation for the draft-dodging charges that Bill Clinton endured during his campaigns. But whom did it help to have Clinton crony and Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe accusing Bush of being "AWOL" during his Guard service? "George Bush," he said, "never served in our military in our country." But Bush did serve and was honorably discharged. The only thing ever in question was whether he showed up for the final months of his term.

Lost in the charges is that a president's use of military force can't be accurately predicted on the basis of his military record. Clinton didn't serve in the military but sent troops into major interventions abroad, including in Bosnia and Kosovo. Bush has sent troops to fight wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Democrats seek to undermine Bush's credibility by bringing up Vietnam, but they're fueling a political war of mutual self-destruction, as are Republicans. "Ultimately, it is Kerry himself who will have to explain to his fellow veterans why he chose a path that dishonors their service," thunders the conservative National Review's Mackubin Thomas Owens. The Heritage Foundation posts an Ann Coulter column saying a Kerry supporter, Vietnam vet and former Georgia Sen. Max Cleland, "did not give his limbs for his country" because the grenade that injured him was not hurled in combat. How absurd and insulting to all veterans.

As long as there are baby boomers running for the nation's highest office, there will be questions about candidates' service or lack of it during the Vietnam era. What ought to matter are what candidates propose for today's troops and what presidents do with them in order to avoid new Vietnams.

Los Angeles Times



Kerry versus Kerry

John Kerry's surge into first place after the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primary proves his oft-repeated contention that he is a "good closer." Kerry has long said that he is a great fighter. If he completes his miraculous comeback to win the Democratic presidential nomination, he will indeed have the fight of his life on his hands — against his own legislative record.

Kerry, of course, has struggled with his vote in 2002 to authorize the Iraq War. "We did not empower the president to do regime change," Kerry said of the resolution on "Meet the Press" last summer. Actually, the Kerry-supported resolution specifically cited regime change as a goal, and Kerry also voted to make regime change U.S. policy in 1998. That's two Kerry votes in favor of regime change, but who's counting?

The Massachusetts senator has similar trouble with other prior votes, making him the first candidate in U.S. history to run a presidential campaign against himself.

Today's Kerry excoriates Attorney General John Ashcroft for violating American civil liberties with his evil tool, the Patriot Act. "We are a nation of laws and liberties, not of a knock in the night," Kerry huffs. Maybe Kerry should have thought about that before voting for the Patriot Act in 2001 — since laws and liberties are pretty important and all.

Kerry attacks President Bush's No Child Left Behind Act as "one-size-fits-all testing mania." Worse, according to Kerry, "By signing the No Child Left Behind Act and then breaking his promise by not giving schools the resources to help meet new standards, George Bush has undermined public education and left millions of children behind." The funding charge is a canard — overall spending on education under Bush is up 65

By RICH LOWRY
King Features

Rich Lowry is the author of the recently released book "Legacy: Paying the Price for the Clinton Years."



percent — but it gives Kerry a way to join the Howard Dean-led assault on the act, which he voted for — enthusiastically.

"This is groundbreaking legislation," Kerry gushed on the Senate floor, "that enhances the federal government's commitment to our nation's public education system ... and embraces many of the principles and programs that I believe are critical to improving the public education system."

As for the North American Free Trade Agreement, the target of Dean and other liberal critics, Kerry promises to "fix it." The agreement supposedly doesn't do enough to keep Mexico from employing low-wage workers, thus encouraging jobs to leave the United States and depressing wages here. True to form, he used to love the trade deal. "NAFTA is not the problem," he explained in 1993. "Job loss is taking place without NAFTA."

And so, if the senator grabs his party's nomination, it will make for the fight of the century, a brawl to the finish — Kerry vs. Kerry. No wonder he wants to get himself out of the Senate. By his own lights, Kerry's votes there were simply too dangerous and shortsighted for the nation to tolerate any longer.

Letter to the Editor

Saipan Tribune welcomes contributions. All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name, address and, if possible, fax or telephone number. Letters are edited for space, clarity and fairness.

Down with double standard

Recently a columnist submitted to the media a brief comment in a short take regarding Dr. Jesus Camacho being "elusive" and submitting "lengthy diatribes" aimed at NMC and its president, as well as taking up so much space in the newspapers she described as "our".

First of all, I don't know why Ruth Tighe would consider Dr. Camacho "elusive" when he has been very direct in the articles and letters that he has submitted to the media for nearly two years. If Dr. Camacho were elusive, it would be to individuals like Ruth Tighe who apparently believe that the media in the Marianas is established only for those residents who live there and not for individuals with island descent who happen to have domiciles in the mainland. Her mentality reflects living in a "vacuum". The description of "our" newspapers alludes to the people in the Marianas own the media and anyone outside are not involved with that ownership. The press belongs to all people regardless of where individuals reside in relation to where the media operates. She should know that since she is a columnist.

Dr. Camacho believes in exercising his right and privilege to the freedom of speech and expression protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Since Dr. Camacho began submitting articles and letters, that privilege and right has been respected and granted by the media in the Marianas. Notwithstanding some of the viewpoints expressed by Dr. Camacho have been somewhat captious, the media in the CNMI has been very professional and accommodating in terms of publishing what has been submitted in a timely fashion with little or no editing.

With respect to authoring and submitting lengthy diatribes that take up so much space in the newspapers in the Marianas, that is another privilege and right exercised by Dr. Camacho. Who is Ruth Tighe to judge how long letters and articles should be that are published in the CNMI newspapers? I find it very interesting that several of her columns are just as long, if not longer, as what I have submitted. And because of that, Ruth Tighe may be applying a double standard for anyone who might desire to extrapolate in a lengthy letter or column to the media.

If anyone has taken the time to read what Dr. Camacho has submitted, the articles and letters have not been just about NMC and its president. The topics have ranged from the Ronald Reagan dime to the overcharging of gas by Halliburton and the national debt and deficit. The mix of topics that have been written about were produced with the sole intent to bring to the forefront valuable and interesting information that Dr. Camacho considered important for the island community to know and think about.

Columnists who say things in their columns that reflect hearsay or speculation, as well as insinuate negatives about the writing nuances and/or the topics that other writers have chosen to delineate about, should remember that unless they are a publisher who has the power and right to edit and choose what is to be published, then they should refrain from placing absurd comments about other writers that are more a personal affront than a professional critique.

Calvin Coolidge, 30th President of the U.S. and a profound scholar from Amherst College said in 1925, "It is the ferment of ideas, the clash of disagreeing judgments, the privilege of the individual to develop his own thought and shape his own character which makes progress possible". Reading enlightening quotations like this one will make an individual with a provincial mind become more flexible and open to the way others are in the world of journalism. I strongly suggest that Ruth Tighe take this recommendation under serious advisement.

Dr. Jesus Camacho
Delano, California

UnMarriage

"**F**aggot!", cried out one of two arguing young boys at my school the other day. Unsure of what I just heard, (I thought that he was talking about "maggots" as part of his science project) I asked what he just said, and unhesitatingly he added, "Mister, he's a Homo!"

I saw and heard in this 12-year-old a heightened stereo homophobic mouthpiece of this generation. Knowing myself to be a man of the world who thinks he's heard it all, this still came as a shock. To my chagrin, this proved to be not a single incident. The word is uttered as often as the "F" expletive used to be in every salty sailors' cabin.

Not too long ago, in a so-called Christian email network, I wrote to hold accountable a rabid anti-Moslem and vituperative posting, and the author retorted with, "You must be a fag."

Calling one a homosexual must be the ultimate put-down of the times! Given recent news headlines, the rights of homosexuals in the United States have come to fore once more.

This weekend, including Presidents' Day, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom has given his blessings to the civil solemnization of same-sex marriages. Gay time in North Beach has come a long way, Dude!

The Anglican communion is in upheaval over the ascendancy of declared homosexual Gene Robinson as one of the Bishops of the Episcopal Church.

The Supreme Court of the State of Massachusetts would not settle for just a civil union to define the constitutional rights of homosexuals to marry. A Massachusetts lower court earlier adjudged that not allowing same-sex marriage is an abridgement of civil rights. The line has been drawn, and competing sides has since taken the "all or nothing" stance towards the resolution of the critical situation. This week, the State Legislature narrowly missed three times passing a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex union as the sole definition of marriage. Reasonable men and women have been thrust into unreasonable times.

The United Methodist Church, which has reared the likes of Hillary Clinton and Laura Bush, second largest Non-Catholic Christian denomination in the world will have its "open minds, open hearts, open doors" slogan tested when it meets at its quadrennial General Conference this April in Pittsburgh. Hot on the agenda, as it has been for the last two sessions, is the question of homosexual's role in the Church and the current issue of same-sex conjugal union.

The rights of GLTHs (Gay, Lesbian, Transgender Homosexuals), is a widely discussed, disputed and divisive issue that has rent and threatens to rip some more the Methodist fellowship at its forthcoming conference.

Bishop Gene Robinson might just have saved the Methodists from this. If the Episcopalian can survive his Bishopric ascendancy, the Methodists, a close cousin originating also from the same Anglican Confession, can very well survive this one, too, as it did previous historic issues such as the abolition of slavery, women's rights, and others.

President George W. Bush, in his State of the Union address, vowed to defend the traditional definition of marriage as between a man and a woman.

Subsequently, he threatened to sign a constitutional amendment,

What's in a name?

You have to go back to the Pat Buchanan campaigns to find a major presidential candidate who liked the term "illegal alien."

In three recent speeches by George W. Bush—the State of the Union on Jan. 20, his Jan. 7 talk on immigration reform and his radio address the following weekend—the phrase was absent. Instead, the president used "undocumented worker" or some variation thereof (like "undocumented men and women") six times. His favorite was "temporary worker," which he used 13 times even though there can be no such category until some sort of immigration reform is passed.

Similar thing with the Democratic candidates. No "illegal aliens."

At Joseph Lieberman's Web site—which, by the way, has by far the most detailed immigration-reform proposal—the preference is "undocumented immigrant," which shows up 20 times. "Temporary worker" appears just twice.

At John Kerry's, I found one instance of "undocumented young people" and one of "undocumented worker."

At Howard Dean's, just one mention of "undocumented immigrants." There's also a reference to "immigrants who are detained."

At Wesley Clark's, "undocumented workers" and "temporary worker" appear once each.

And John Edwards' site—the only one that does not have a section specifically devoted to immigration policy—managed to avoid such terms altogether.

The disappearance, pretty much, of "illegal aliens" from mainstream political discourse is a good thing. I think back to the early to mid-1990s, when I used to get floods of mail from Angry White Males (remember them?) about "illegal aliens" being "criminals."

For one thing, those living in the United States without permission are not "criminals." They have broken civil, not criminal, statutes, which is why the penalty is deportation and not imprisonment.

By JAIME R. VERGARA

Vergara is a Social Studies 6th grade teacher at San Vicente Elementary School and writes a regular column for the Saipan Tribune.



if that was what it would take to defend the tradition.

President Bush and Democratic candidate Massachusetts Senator John Kerry are both opposed to same sex marriage. Both, however, are vowed to protect the civil rights of everyone, homosexuals included.

Why this deep socio-religious cleavage in the human community?

It has been noted in the history of religion that two fundamental stances tend to polarize any group, and that has to do with the focus and emphasis of a group's *raison d'être*, or, the basic understanding (intellectually, psychologically, ethically and spiritually) of human life.

There are those who will focus on the nature of the divine, awesome and mysterious sovereign will, and that tends to see the human condition as depraved, resulting in practices of holiness and purity for salvation.

Then there are those who focus on the nature of the created order as crying out for celebration, that tends to focus on the trustworthiness of being itself to call every straying soul back home to realistic living, the inalienable freedom of all individuals to make responsible choices, and the call to compassion as the fulfilling style of human expenditure. Both stances are dialectically present in all religious traditions. And both command an overzealous following.

Fundamentalism in all traditions tend to take the form of the first category. While there is a legitimate function of conserving that, which has already been attained, the rise of fundamentalism in our time has deteriorated into militant exclusivism, touting "my tribe/people/country/religion, right or wrong."

On the other hand, those who foster a more open, inclusive stance, have often uncritically taken and hastily embraced the gains of the scientific inquiry, the learning from secular wisdom and the impact of the highly dynamic urban lifestyle, to a point where humanity is affirmed while the individual is lost in the morass of diversity.

This dichotomy goes beyond just the half-empty, half-full bottle perspective, though that's how it shows up at the individual level. Rather, it is nothing less than the shaking of the foundations of human consciousness itself, a civilizational clash that has been acknowledged by all combatants eager to win over the hearts, minds and doors of everyone.

The UnCola claimed its rightful place in sodapopdom, and prevailed. The UnMarriage of equally committed individuals in a covenant of marriage is clamoring for genuine human approbation. I predict that in time (though perhaps, past my lifetime), young boy's "Faggot" cries in the hallways will soon ring hollow, and those who sexually prefer differently shall be rightly seated in the sacred pews of hollowed halls. Humanity at its core can be trusted; we can freely decide. Let us do so with compassion.

BY ROGER HERNANDEZ
King Features

Cuban-born Roger Hernandez is a syndicated columnist and writer-in-residence at New Jersey Institute of Technology.



What's more, the "alien" part of "illegal alien" is, well, alienating. It makes them more strange, more outlandish, more otherworldly than need be. It's only used by frothing-at-the-mouth xenophobes.

Not that there's a shortage of them. Google yields 242,000 Web sites where "illegal aliens" appears. A typical sentiment: "Calling an illegal alien an undocumented immigrant is like calling a burglar an uninvited house guest."

Fine. Frothing-at-the-mouth xenophobes have little say these days in the national dialogue on immigration.

While "illegal aliens" is mean-spirited, the variations of "undocumented" hide the reality that these people are here illegally; they're not merely lacking documents.

Sure, some politicians use "illegal immigration" (twice on the Lieberman Web site, once in Bush's State of the Union address), but that refers to an issue, not to people. There's a failure of nerve in applying the most precise term to real flesh-and-blood people.

Immigration reform is important for the economy, for national security, for humanitarian reasons, and not least of all as a reflection of America's values. A good place to start is by using the most accurate, least loaded term to describe whom we are talking about—and that's "illegal immigrants."

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Hawaii's Lingle to push for more Compact impact aid

HONOLULU, Hawaii (AP)—While Hawaii didn't get as much money as it wanted from the federal government to provide services for Micronesian and Marshallese immigrants, that won't deter the state from continuing to push for more aid, Gov. Linda Lingle says.

"In politics, we deal with it all the time—you don't get everything you want all the time," Lingle said. "But you need to be going in the right direction, and the agreement certainly was going in the right direction from my point of view."

Lingle was speaking of the federal government's allocation of \$30 million to be divided among Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands to provide social services for Micronesian and Marshallese immigrants who arrive on their shores under the Compacts of Free Association.

The compacts—which allow Micronesians and Marshallese to freely

come to the United States and its territories—were first negotiated in 1986 and renewed last month by the Bush administration. They recognize the island nations' independence and set forth a financial and tactical relationship between their governments and the U.S. government.

Upon renewal, the compacts were amended to include \$30 million for Hawaii and the other territories, which have long lobbied the U.S. government to help foot the bill for providing education, health and other services for immigrants.

Guam received the highest share of the funds, \$14.2 million, based on the number of immigrants who live there. Hawaii received \$10.5 million.

The distribution formula caused a rift between the U.S. Department of the Interior, which oversees Insular Affairs, and Hawaii's congressional delegation, which led to the cancellation of a planned ceremony last week in

Honolulu to announce the grants.

Lingle agreed that \$10.5 million won't cover the costs of providing for immigrants, but it still is more than Hawaii has received in the past.

"I don't think anybody felt they got enough," Lingle said at a news conference last week, flanked by Northern Marianas Gov. Juan Babauta and American Samoa Gov. Togiola Tulafono.

"As the congressional delegation stated, they will be working hard to get additional funding in the future," she said. "But it was more than we were getting previously by a substantial amount, so it's progress in the right direction."

In Hawaii, officials say the state spent about \$32 million in 2002 providing services for a population of about 7,000 Marshallese, and a slightly smaller number of Micronesians.

The state received about \$3 million for fiscal year 2003 in so-called compact-impact aid.

[MPLT, NMIRF, NMC] need to agree where they stand," said Igisomar.

On a personal level, he said he finds the Pacific Gateway "a good project," but he indicated that much more needs to be done for the project to take off. "It's a good project. Beautiful. The idea is good but as to the numbers...that's the question."

Igisomar said CDA will write to Gov. Juan N. Babauta informing him about the CDA's intent to work with NMC on the issue.

Babauta earlier asked the CDA board to help NMC secure interim financing to ensure that the Pacific Gateway gets started.

CDA may be able to play a role by providing a guarantee of interim financing, while the Board of Regents negotiates with NMIRF and MPLT and while the board waits for a response to the [loan] application with USDA," said the governor in a Jan. 20, letter.

He said the interim financing would ensure that the project's opening—January 2005—would no longer be delayed.

other publications reporting dolphins feeding on seagrass. Trianni concludes that the dolphin was starving, could not pursue fish and thus chose to feed on seagrass," it added.

Co-authored by Kurt Kessler, Trianni's article also told of the frequent stranding of spinner dolphins in the Saipan lagoon during low tide, the DLNR said. The article reportedly explained three recent stranding of dolphins, which could have died had DFW staff not been able to herd the creatures to open sea.

The DLNR commended Trianni for his research work for the DFW, disclosing that the marine biologist has authored five articles published in

The NMC, which entered into \$7.5 million purchase of La Fiesta Shopping Mall in San Roque last August, had originally planned to begin the Pacific Gateway by fall 2004. It has been moved to January 2005 due to lack of funding.

"The sooner the college is operating out of the La Fiesta site, the sooner our economy will begin to realize the benefits of this new [economic] activity," Babauta had said.

In his letter, Babauta noted that his office has invested \$3.75 million of federal funds for the project.

NMC would need an additional \$10 million to renovate the mall and acquire necessary equipment.

The NMC is set to submit an \$8-million direct loan with USDA-RD within the month.

The Gateway projects aims to attract international students from China, Korea, and Japan to enroll with NMC. The college hopes to recruit some 500 additional students on the project's first year.

scientific journals in the past 18 months.

The agency disclosed that Trianni authored an article on reef fish abundance in CNMI's marine protected areas, which was published in Australia as part of the proceedings of the World Congress on Aquatic Protected Areas.

The DLNR explained that the article dealt with methods used to determine the increase in reef fish population, including that on the Managaha Marine Conservation Area.

The article acknowledges the important contributions to the aquatic protected area reef fish surveys made by the DFW reef fish survey team composed of Jacinto Taman, Tony Flores, Rudy Pangilinan, Chris

LAND

From Page 1

evaluate the viability of Palau Micronesia Air.

The Palau-based airline has obtained an investment commitment of \$500,000 from the CNMI government.

To prevent any future delays in the release of funds, the board passed a resolution Saturday authorizing other CDA officials to sign off MPLA requests.

Meantime, MPLA commissioner Henry S. Hofsneider said Friday that the CDA's signature had authorized BoG to place the requested amount on MPLA's special account for land compensation.

He said that, of 62 land claimants who received MPLA compensation offers, 43 have accepted the offers, while nine have rejected them.

Those who have accepted the offers will begin to receive their payments this week.

Hofsneider said those who will get their claims need to present their Social Security number or a taxpayer's identification card. Concerned individuals can claim their compensation at the MPLA office, located at the ground floor of Sablan Building in Chalan Kanoa.

"They have to present SSS or Tax ID's when they come," said Hofsneider.

The Attorney General's Office earlier advised land claimants to report their total compensation to the government for tax purposes.

The AGO said recipients need to seek assistance from a tax professional to determine their estimated tax payment.

"It's very important that they

know about it now. So we're reminding them to seek the advise of a tax professional before they start spending their money...to avoid getting into financial trouble later," said Attorney General Pam Brown.

The AGO said that under the U.S. and CNMI laws, recipients are required to report such payments on their income tax returns or gross revenue tax return.

Tax payment differs depending whether the compensation is for land or for accumulated interest on the payments for the land or whether the recipient is a business or an individual.

The MPLA board earlier approved 75 folders for immediate land compensation after the signing and release of the \$40-million bond.

Of the total amount, only about \$27 million will be used for land compensation since \$11 million has been allotted for a pending prison project. The bond underwriter also deducted \$1.5 million for cost of the bond issuance.

The government is given 30 years to pay off the loan at an annual interest of 6.75 percent.

The first batch of claimants are landowners whose lands were acquired by the CNMI government for rights-of-way. The Land Compensation Act mandates the government to prioritize the payment for lands used for rights-of-way.

The next would be those whose lands were acquired for ponding basins. Lastly, the government will settle with landowners of wetlands and other claims. The MPLA has listed some 120 eligible land claimants in the CNMI.

The payments to landowners are based on the value of the properties at the time of taking by the Commonwealth.

returning to China but had reconsidered because "nothing" awaits them there. Besides, they said they have used up their savings just to come to the CNMI. "How can we go back when we have no money. We've used up our life savings," he said.

Wang said that while they want to study and get a degree in the CNMI—as they had planned—they have zero budget now to pursue it.

He said only two of them had been able to enroll at the Northern Marianas College.

The students earlier said that they incurred huge debts in China—some \$8,000 to \$15,000 each—to enroll at SU. They arrived on Saipan in fall 2003.

the lagoon," Trianni said.

In commanding Trianni, the DLNR also disclosed the marine biologist's work on the sea cucumber fishery in Rota, which was published by the South Pacific Commission Beche-de-Mer Bulletin. The department also mentioned Trianni's article evaluating the sea cucumber resource on Saipan, which was published in the proceedings of the 9th International Coral Reef Symposium.

The DLNR said Trianni has also authored an article that focused on collected data in connection with the trochus season on Saipan, which was published in the South Pacific Commission's Trochus Bulletin.

DEAD

From Page 1

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources disclosed this finding, based on an article by Michael Trianni, a research scientist and senior marine biologist at the Division of Fish and Wildlife. The DLNR said the article was published in the scientific journal *Micronesica*.

"The article tells of the autopsy on a dead dolphin with several injuries and the discovery that dolphins eat seagrass when injured and unable to catch fish," the DLNR said.

"The article also explains that a scientific literature search produced no

Saipan Tribune Make it your **DAILY** habit.

February is Parent Leadership Month

Parents and parent groups are set to gather today, Feb. 2, to observe the proclamation of February 2004 as National Parent Leadership Month.

Parents Anonymous of the Northern Mariana Islands will be recognizing, honoring and celebrating parents for leadership roles in their homes and the community. Gov. Juan N. Babauta will make the proclamation at 11am at the Office of the Governor.

National Parent Leadership Month was created to educate the public about this vital family strengthening and community building strategy, and to encourage professional, policymakers and other community members to partner with parents in addressing issues that affect children and families.

Parent Leadership occurs when parents gain the knowledge and skills to function in meaningful leadership roles and represent a "parent voice" to help shape the lives of families and the community, as well as shape the direction of programs and policies that impact them.

Parents, grandparents, kinship care providers, foster parents, and anyone in a parenting role who has personal experience in using resources or services to strengthen their families have the potential to

become Parent Leaders.

"Parent Leadership is an essential component in all effective family strengthening and child abuse prevention programs," said Division of Youth Services director Victor Mesta. "Better outcomes for families are achieved when parents have the opportunity to

use their knowledge and expertise through meaningful and active roles in the planning, implementation, oversight and evaluation of programs that affect families and children. Parents find themselves accomplishing things that may have seemed impossible before."

As part of the month's

activities, parent organizations will be invited to submit the names of outstanding Parent Leaders for public recognition.

Parents and professionals in the Northern Marianas and the United States are working together in new ways, participating in local, regional and national planning processes,

collaborating as grant reviewers and program evaluators, and serving together on advisory boards and coalitions. When parents are speaking and acting from the parent's perspective rather than as staff from an organization or institution, they are Parent Leaders.

Founded in 1999, Parents Anonymous of the Northern Mariana Islands is joining with Parents Anonymous Inc., the nation's oldest family strengthening

and child abuse prevention organization and founder of National Parent Leadership Month, to honor anyone in a parenting role who has taken steps to provide leadership in their home or community or at the state or national level.

For more information about activities related to National Parent Leadership Month, contact the Division of Youth Services' Parent Education Program at 670-664-2585 or parented@saipan.com.

Fiji reappoints top military commander

SUVA, Fiji (FijiSUN/PIR)—Fiji Army Commander Voreqe Bainimarama will remain at his post following a decision yesterday by President Ratu Josefa Iloilo to extend his term.

Accepting the appointment, Bainimarama thanked the President and pledged his personal as well as the RFMF's loyalty and support to his office and to the Government.

Ratu Josefa said this was a time of nation building for all, demanding that Fiji move forward as one people to achieve prosperity and security.

Last night, the commander would not say how long his term is but an official with the Home Affairs Ministry said his term would be for five years.

His reappointment follows months of speculation and pressure on the Government to extend the commander's term.

Home Affairs Minister Joketani Cokanasiga declined to comment on the reappointment yesterday.

Commodore Bainimarama and Mr. Cokanasiga were summoned by President Ratu Josefa Iloilo to Government House yesterday morning. After consultations between Mr. Cokanasiga and the National Security Council, of which the Prime Minister, Laisenia Qarase, is chairman, it was resolved that Commodore Bainimarama's term be extended.

microl
oh yeah
+red



Business

Introverts are now coping at work

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
THE WASHINGTON POST

Life can be tough for introverts, especially in the workplace. Their preference for keeping to themselves can come across as shyness, aloofness or even arrogance. Often outnumbered by their extroverted colleagues, they can feel overwhelmed by the demands of office socialization and networking. (However, unlike those with social anxiety disorder, classic introverts just prefer working alone and have little need for social interaction—an important distinction.)

Some get bitter about it. "It's who you know, not what you

know, that matters," they whine. Others adapt, and try to make the best of their contrarian nature.

Successful introverts appear to adopt one of two strategies for coping with the gap between the way the world works and the way they wish it did.

The first one is to fake it. Laura K. McAfee of Albuquerque, N.M., describes herself as a "total introvert" who took this route. Her first job was in a deli, where she had to interact with hundreds of people every day. "It was exhausting—not just the work itself (although being on your feet that long certainly isn't easy), but the mental effort it took to make myself chat and

be nice to customers," she wrote in an e-mail.

But within a month, she said, she had developed a work persona. "Like putting a mask on, or an actor trying on a character; I could actually feel the mask settling into place as I walked to work. I learned how to act happy and bubbly and friendly and all of those things that come so naturally to extroverts. It was sort of a defensive thing that I learned to do—camouflage, protective coloration, call it what you will.

But it enabled me to function on the job, doing things that absolutely terrified me. And when it worked, and people responded, that positive reinforcement was all I needed to keep doing it, so that it got easier and easier and easier."

McAfee, a 37-year-old lawyer, said it comes naturally now. "I don't have to consciously think about it anymore, but just sort of transform during the commute. ... So over time, my 'work' face

has mellowed, and is now more me than mask."

She wrote, "Now, there are quite a few people who know me who would never, ever believe it if you told them I was an introvert."

She likens it to any other coping skill. "The job world expects you to be open and outgoing, just like it expects you to be organized and on time and to get your job done. So for those of us for whom that doesn't come naturally ... you just have to find some way to cope with those 'failings' so

they don't get in the way."

A second strategy is to pursue careers and work roles that play to your strengths as an introvert, such as the ability to work independently.

"I don't think introverts would appreciate being converted any more than an outspoken, aggressive, social butterfly type being persuaded or forced to act in the exact opposite matter simply because that's what everyone else is doing. It's not natural," said Sean Preston.

Do you have pay issues?

By KENNETH BREDEMEIER
THE WASHINGTON POST

Pay disputes are a staple of work life, but special circumstances always seem to perplex individual workers.

Q. I work for a nonprofit where the daily shift is 8.5 hours, but I was only paid for eight hours until recently, when we were told we could clock out after eight hours. I never thought my having to donate a half-hour per shift was legitimate, and the recent change confirmed this suspicion. Am I wrong to think this has been illegal? What can we do to collect it?

A. Philip M. Schwartz, a Washington lawyer who represents corporations on employment issues, said this worker should check with her payroll or human resources department to find out why the clock-out procedure was changed. Schwartz said the change might be benign; for example, the previous, 8.5-hour pay period might have included an uncompensated half-hour lunch break. Conversely, he said this worker might have a legitimate complaint. If hourly employees work more than 40 hours in a seven-day work period, they are entitled to time-and-a-half pay. He said that if the worker is not satisfied with why the hourly clock-out change was made and thinks she was previously shortchanged, she should check with federal or state wage and hour officials to see if filing a formal complaint is warranted.

Q. I worked as a manager in a department in a large corporation's nonprofit foundation. While we presented ourselves to our constituency as working for the foundation, we were in all respects employees of the corporation. During my last eight months of employ-

ment, the corporation declared bankruptcy, from which it has since emerged.

I terminated my employment in April 2003. Raises and bonuses retroactive to Jan. 1, 2003, were approved and distributed to all departments except mine. Our supervisor said this was because bankruptcy officials decided we were not part of the profit-making component of the corporation. But I recently discovered that bonuses and raises were paid to people who worked at the foundation. I called the corporate HR department requesting my share of the money and was told that my request was denied because the review of this issue took place after my termination.

I'm wondering whether I am eligible for the 2002 performance bonus and pay raise from Jan. 1, 2003, to April 2003. What legal recourse do I have if they continue to deny the payment?

A. Schwartz said the bankruptcy filing might complicate the question of whether the worker is entitled to the bonus and raise. "Within limitations, corporations in a bankruptcy can decide what obligations they want to stick with and what ones they want to discharge," he said. Moreover, Schwartz said, some states treat bonuses as wages and others do not, further complicating the problem of whether this worker would be entitled to what amounts to back pay. "What is his contractual obligation to either a bonus or a pay raise?" Schwartz asked rhetorically. The company could have an across-the-board policy of granting pay raises, in which case he might have a claim, Schwartz said, but they might also say that you have to still be there to get the raise. "He needs to show how he was entitled to the raise," Schwartz said.

triathlon

Kmart sues Martha Stewart firm over deal

By SARAH KARUSH
AP WRITER

Kmart Corp. is accusing Martha Stewart's company of overcharging it for the exclusive rights to sell housewares and other products bearing the domestic maven's name.

Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc. said Friday that Kmart's interpretation of their contract would cut what it gets from Kmart by millions of dollars and said it would contest Kmart's court filing.

The controversy arises as Stewart is on trial for allegedly lying to investigators about why she sold ImClone Systems stock in 2001 just before it plunged on a negative government report on an ImClone drug. She stepped down last June as chairman and CEO of Martha Stewart Living but remains its biggest stockholder.

Troy-based Kmart, which emerged from bankruptcy in May, has stood by its Martha Stewart Everyday line, touting the brand as one of its main assets despite Stewart's legal troubles.

In a complaint filed Wednesday in U.S. Bankruptcy

Court in Chicago against a subsidiary of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, Kmart said the company has sought more in royalties from the retailer than their contract calls for.

Kmart is accusing subsidiary MSO IP Holdings Inc. of acting in bad faith and is seeking unspecified damages.

Kmart says its agreement with MSO IP calls for royalties based on sales, but stipulates minimum payments for each product category. MSO IP has demanded Kmart pay a minimum for each category as well as a minimum for total sales, while Kmart argues that the minimum on total sales includes the per-product minimums.

Martha Stewart Living said Kmart's interpretation would reduce the total guarantees due for the year ended Jan. 31 by \$4.5 million to \$47.5 million.

Kmart also disputes MSO IP's interpretation of an advertising provision in the contract. At stake is \$1 million to \$2 million annually in Kmart advertising in Martha Stewart Living's media properties, the multimedia company said.



AP

Martha Stewart merchandise is displayed at the Kmart in White Lake, Mich., on Oct. 17, 2002.

Near-flawless man-made gems send jitters in diamond market

By MARGARET WEBB PRESSLER
THE WASHINGTON POST

A question has dogged the jewelry industry for decades: If man could make a perfect diamond in a laboratory—indistinguishable from one mined from the ground—what would it be worth?

This query has gone unanswered ever since the first synthetic diamond was manufactured in the 1950s.

Beautiful stones have been created, but nothing that couldn't be identified as man-made.

Until now.

Even as natural diamonds fly out of jewelry stores for Valentine's Day, two well-financed start-up companies are rolling out manufactured diamonds that can be distinguished from natural ones only with extremely expensive equipment. The man-made gems aren't easy or cheap to

produce, but they're the kind of nearly flawless, sparkly stones that the jewelry industry—especially DeBeers SA, which controls about 60 percent of the rough-diamond market—has long feared.

"Everybody's worried because if you look at the price of rough diamonds since 1948, they have never declined in price," said Kenneth Gassman, a diamond industry analyst with Rapaport Research. "Why?

Because DeBeers has done a great job of propping up the market. Now you come in here and suddenly you have synthetic stones that look like the real thing. Now what happens to prices?"

The answer could become clearer over the next year or two as these "cultured" diamonds become more widely available. The yellow diamonds being made by Gemesis Corp. of Sarasota, Fla., are now for sale

in only a handful of jewelry stores nationwide. The nearly colorless, flawless white diamonds from Apollo Diamond Inc. of Boston should be available by fall.

Both companies insist they aren't trying to replace mined diamonds. Rather, they expect to find a market niche alongside real diamonds, offering consumers more affordable alternatives.

"We think we'll have an additive niche in the market, and that people will add to their collection of jewelry," Apollo Diamond president Bryant Linares said.

The best-known synthetic gems are simulants—stones such as cubic zirconia or Moissanite that look like diamonds but are altogether different. They may be lovely in a piece of jewelry, but a jeweler or gemologist can tell the difference even if the public can't.

What Apollo and Gemesis are producing, on the other hand, are real diamonds using high-tech methods. "These are chemically, optically and physically identical to mined diamonds," Linares said.

Linares expects his diamonds will sell for up to 35 percent less than a natural diamond. His stones would also give customers the comfort of knowing their gems didn't come from a country that is using the diamond trade to finance terrorism or engage in other kinds of brutality.

Gemesis president Carlos Valeiras said man-made diamonds are also environmentally friendly. "It really covers a lot of bases, from both value and price point all the way to social and environmental concerns," he said.

What worries jewelers is how hard it is to detect these stones.

Conrad Black sues critics at Hollinger

Embattled newspaper baron Conrad Black fired back at several of his biggest critics at Hollinger International Inc. on Friday, filing a lawsuit in Toronto claiming that they defamed him.

Among the defendants in the suit are Richard Breeden, a former chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission who has been advising a group of Hollinger International directors who have accused Black of misappropriating millions of dollars.

Other defendants include Gordon Paris, who has replaced

Black as chairman and chief executive of Chicago-based Hollinger International, Black's newspaper operating company. The suit also names former Illinois governor James Thompson and three other independent directors of Hollinger International.

The suit claims a total of \$850 million Canadian (\$650 million U.S.) in damages for defamation, conspiracy to injure, interference with economic relations and intimidation, intentional misrepresentation, plus punitive damages. (AP)

Nation

Democrats skeptical of Bush's guard file

By JENNIFER LOVEN
AP WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hundreds of pages of documents that the White House said comprise President Bush's entire military record offer no new answers to the election-year questions that have swirled around his Vietnam-era service. Democrats who have led the criticism greeted Friday's release of documents with skepticism.

"Each revelation of material from the Bush White House has raised more questions than it has answered," said Democratic National Committee spokeswoman Debra DeShong. "It remains to be seen if these newest documents will provide any answers."

The White House distributed the two-inch stack of papers, and allowed reporters a brief look through another several dozen pages of medical records that



AP
George W. Bush is shown during his time in the Texas Air National Guard, 1968-73, in this undated photo.

were not allowed out of a briefing room, in yet another effort to quiet a political storm that has showed no sign of abating.

Bush was in the Texas Air National Guard from 1968 to 1973, much of the time as a pilot, but never went to Vietnam or flew in combat.

His military record has been an issue in his campaigns as far back as 1994. It was revived this year by Democrats who see an opportunity to puncture Bush's popularity on national security issues and whose front-runner to challenge the president for reelection is decorated Vietnam War veteran John Kerry.

The criticism, which Kerry himself has stayed relatively clear of while not quieting others in his party, centers around the year between roughly May 1972 and May 1973 for which there are few records.

Bush had asked to be able to transfer temporarily from the Texas

Guard to an Alabama base during that time so he could work on the Senate campaign of a family friend. Reports differ on how long he was actually in Alabama, but it's generally believed that he returned to his Texas unit after the November 1972 election.

Democrats questioning whether Bush ever showed up for duty in Alabama have called on him to publicize his entire file to put the matter to rest. Though the president promised to do so in an interview last Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press," the White House

appeared reluctant until the mass

document release late Friday.

"Our understanding is that this is the entire file," presidential press secretary Scott McClellan said. "The record documents that the accusations by some are false."

Many pages in the pile of military records were duplicates, as they came from different repositories.

They show Bush getting a glowing recommendation for promotion to 1st lieutenant—which he received on Nov. 7, 1970—and exemplary performance evaluations from his commanders at Ellington Air Force Base in Houston.

Marines leave home for 2nd Iraq tour

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. (AP)—Nine months after President Bush declared an end to major combat in Iraq, hundreds of Marines said goodbye to their families again Saturday before returning to the country as part of a peacekeeping force.

In the hours before dawn, troops from the 2nd and 3rd battalions of the 7th Marine Regiment loaded personal gear and equipment onto trucks as their families, separated from them by concertina wire, looked on.

"He was only back for about five months and now he's going again," said 19-year-old Samantha Fraidenburg, who is expecting a baby in October. "It's very upsetting. It's not what we expected."

Her husband, Lance Cpl. Justin Fraidenburg, 20, was in Baghdad last year.

The troops leaving early Saturday are part of a broader deployment of nearly 25,000 Marines going to Iraq to take over for units from the Army's 82nd Airborne, said Lt. Eric Knapp, a spokesman for the Camp Pendleton Marine base.

At the Twentynine Palms base, Lance Cpl. Aki Ariz, 22, said his toughest task would be concentrating on the work at hand rather than thinking about the family back home.

His wife, Serenity, 24, said she felt numb watching him prepare to leave.

"It's hard this time," she said. "When you lose your best friend, it's hard."

Margarito Renteria of Deming, N.M., sobbed quietly as he watched his son pack.

"I'm feeling very proud for him because this is what he wants to do," said Renteria, whose son

Edgar is a lance corporal.

"We trust in God that everything is going to be OK. We

ask God to take care of him," he added as he flashed his son a thumbs-up sign and smiled.

gardenia
+red

virtue
+blue

Kerry wins Nevada and DC caucuses

By CALVIN WOODWARD
AP WRITER

Democratic presidential front-runner John Kerry scored victories east and west Saturday, swamping his rivals in Nevada and the District of Columbia caucuses to build his advantage in delegates needed for the nomination. His opponents pinned their hopes on the coming Wisconsin primary to try to slow him down.

Kerry, the only candidate to campaign in Nevada, easily outdistanced Howard Dean in second place, for a Valentine's Day win that unexpectedly drew thousands of people to the party's meetings and surprised officials who saw far less enthusiasm four years ago.

Kerry also more than doubled his nearest opponent, Al Sharpton, in the D.C. race.

The rout kept Kerry's head of steam going as the candidates battled for the Wisconsin primary Tuesday. The Democrats met in Milwaukee for a Saturday night party fund-raising dinner and a debate Sunday.

"These results show that our campaign is uniting Americans from different parts of our country and walks of life in a common purpose," Kerry said in a statement of thanks to voters in Washington, D.C.

And in thanking Nevadans



Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., raises his hands as he is introduced at a rally in Richmond, Va., Saturday, Feb. 7, 2004. AP

for their "lovely valentine," too, Kerry promised anew to take the fight to President Bush. "I promise you that when the Republican smear machine trots out the same old attacks in this election, this is one Democrat who will fight back," he said.

The Wisconsin race might be the last stand for Dean, the one-time presumptive favorite winless in the string of 2004 contests. John Edwards, who

won in his native South Carolina, spoke of his determination to press on into March.

"I'm completely committed to this race," Edwards said after speaking to hundreds of supporters in a Madison, Wis., ballroom. "I think this process is too fluid to set any kind of arbitrary deadlines" for getting out.

With almost all precincts reporting in Nevada, Kerry had about 63 percent of the vote, with

Dean at 17 percent, Edwards at 10 percent and Dennis Kucinich at 7 percent.

Across the country, the full results in the D.C. caucuses showed Kerry with 47 percent; Sharpton, 20 percent; Dean, 17 percent; Edwards, 10 percent; and Kucinich, 3 percent.

Dean prevailed in a D.C. vote last month, before his fortunes sank nationally, but the primary was held to protest the district's lack of voting representation in Congress and did not count.

Same-sex couples marry in San Francisco

By TAMI MIN
AP WRITER

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Gay and lesbian couples from across the country answered this city's Valentine's Day invitation to wed in an unprecedented spree of same-sex marriages that has challenged California law and sent conservative groups scrambling for court intervention.

About 500 people lined up Saturday morning outside City Hall to secure marriage licenses—and then take each other as "spouse for life" in brief vows that have given San Francisco's seat of government the feel of a Las Vegas wedding chapel.

As passing drivers honked and strangers passed out roses, those waiting hours in line cheered couples who emerged from the ornate building clutching the controversial marriage licenses.

It was the third straight day that officials issued the licenses to hundreds of gay and lesbian couples. The response has been so overwhelming that nearly 200 city officials, led by newly elected Mayor Gavin Newsom, have volunteered to pitch in, from sheriff's deputies providing security to clerks processing the licenses.

Across the country, other gay couples didn't wait for a marriage license. About three dozen same-sex couples exchanged vows at Philadelphia's LOVE Park on Saturday as part of a "mass commitment ceremony" organized by a gay-friendly church.

Led by a minister, the couples gathered in front of Robert Indiana's famed "LOVE" sculpture—a rainbow flag draped under it—and repeated their vows.

Despite legal challenges from advocates of traditional marriage, San Francisco's wedding march is expected to continue throughout the long holiday weekend.

City authorities had officiated at 665 same-sex weddings in City Hall by late Friday, and issued still more licenses. By mid-afternoon Saturday, city officials reported recording 214 same-sex marriage licenses.

City officials said they would welcome license applications on Saturday, Sunday and Monday—President's Day—to accommodate couples that have flocked here from places including Oregon, Minnesota, New York and Seattle.

On Friday, a judge denied a petition to block more licenses from being granted. Two separate groups of opponents were asked to return Tuesday for a hearing.

NYPD preparing strategies for attacks

NEW YORK (AP)—The city's police department has been working for the last year with local and federal officials to prepare for a possible chemical, biological or nuclear weapons attack.

The agencies have been meeting in secret and conducting complicated drills to put together what has been called a unique strategy for dealing with such emergencies, The New York Times reported on its Web site Saturday.

For example, police said special units have been conducting training exercises to board cruise ships from helicopters and piers and reviewing Midtown theater floor plans.

Officials also have plans to work along with the Health Department and other agencies to begin a pilot program that would quickly test the city's air for biological agents.

"We're thinking about the unthinkable," Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly told the Times, noting that the drills and training is not a response to any direct threat. "It's something we're trying to take head-on, but the scope and magnitude of the problems are daunting."

Police officials are also preparing to do their part in a plan to vaccinate every New Yorker in the case of a large biological weapons attack or

outbreak of infectious disease.

According to The Times, the city is scheduled to begin anti-chemical and bioweapons training on Wednesday in order to have 10,000 police officers trained in time for the Republican National Convention this summer.

Coordination plans also are being made that would provide guidelines for joint investigations between the Health Department and the FBI in case of a biological attack.

Another plan under preparation would determine how to house and feed thousands of police officers who would continue working in the aftermath of an attack.

Highway shooting appears linked to others

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—A man standing on a highway overpass fired a handgun at a sport utility vehicle Saturday on Interstate 70, and investigators said it appeared to be linked to the months-long series of highway shootings in the Columbus area.

No one was injured in the late morning shooting near Pataskala, about 15 miles east of Columbus.

The bullet struck the SUV's right front fender and lodged in

the battery. It was recovered and sent for lab testing.

The shooting appeared to be related to the 23 others since May, said Franklin County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Steve Martin, a spokesman for the task force investigating the shootings. One person has been killed.

"This is pretty consistent with what our shooter has done in the past," he said. "Our particular shooter is becoming much more aggressive, much bolder."

The SUV driver and four

other witnesses described the shooter as a clean-shaven white male in his 30s with dark hair, wearing a hat and sunglasses driving a small black sedan, Martin said.

The car was similar to a Chevy Metro, said Pat Snelling, a State Highway Patrol dispatcher.

The description matched the one given by witnesses who were shot at last Sunday on Interstate 71 southwest of Columbus.

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Asia

Pakistan quake kills 17, injures 30

By B.K. BANGASH
AP WRITER

ABBOTABAD, Pakistan

(AP)—Two earthquakes struck a remote region of northern Pakistan on Saturday, toppling walls and triggering landslides that killed at least 17 people and injured 30 others. Some 150 homes were damaged.

At least one person was reported missing. Rescue crews were trying to reach the area in the rugged Hindu Kush mountain range, which is

covered by a thick blanket of snow. Officials feared the death toll may rise as temperatures plunged overnight.

The temblors, measuring 5.7 and 5.5, were about 90 minutes apart, with the first striking at 3:30 p.m. They were centered 125 miles northeast of Peshawar and were felt 90 miles away in the capital, Islamabad.

Authorities have sent doctors and police teams to remote villages to provide relief and assess damage, said Syed Ahmed Hussain,

the mayor of Mansehra district.

"We have information that people have been buried by debris in some areas," he said. "People in some areas are sitting outdoors in snow. They fear going back to their homes."

Thirteen people were killed when the pickup truck they were riding in was struck by a boulder loosened by the second tremor, sending the vehicle into a river in the Batgram district, said Adam Khan, a local police official.

Two of the injured—a woman in a coma and another with a

broken leg—were brought to the Ayub Hospital in Abbottabad, the largest town in the quake zone.

"I was sitting in my house and all of a sudden I heard a thunderous sound and a great tremor," said Shakila Nasreen, a mother of nine who broke her leg as the roof caved in on her simple home.

Nasreen said she dragged herself out of the house and to safety. Her children were all at school at the time of the quake and were unharmed.

Landslides had blocked the main road in Batgram, hindering rescue

efforts. In the village of Shamli, a falling wall struck and killed a 10-year-old boy, Khan said.

In Jabori, a village in the neighboring district of Mansehra, a man died when his roof collapsed, said local police official Hayyat Khan. The minaret of a mosque was destroyed.

Two other deaths were reported in Mansehra—a 6-year-old girl and a 7-year-old boy whose homes collapsed. A 4-year-old boy was reported missing in the same area, feared trapped under the debris

of his home, Khan said.

Hospitals were treating 30 others with injuries, officials said.

About 70 homes in Anghrai and another 40 homes in Paras villages were reported to have been seriously damaged, but the extent was not immediately known. The rest of the damaged homes were in surrounding areas. Most homes in the region are built of mud, stones and timber.

Officials said the full extent of the damage may not be known until Sunday as rescue teams report from far flung areas.

Philippine rebels offered peace incentive

BAGUIO, Philippines (AP)—The United States said Saturday it will remove Philippine communist rebels from a list of terrorist organizations if they reach a peace deal, clearing the way for a new round of negotiations.

Peace talks resumed in Oslo, Norway, on Tuesday after a two-year break but hit a snag after the rebels demanded that Manila help get the Communist Party and its armed wing, the New People's Army, off terror lists prepared by the United States, the European Union, Australia and Canada.

Chief rebel negotiator Luis Jalandoni said progress improved Friday after the two sides worked out a solution to the dispute, and that new rounds as early as late March or early May.

At the Philippine Military Academy in the northern

mountain resort city of Baguio, U.S. Embassy chargé d'affaires Joseph Muzomeli told reporters the terror listing should not be a hindrance to peace negotiations.

"The NPA has been on the FTO list several years now," Muzomeli said. "If they reach a peace accord then they can get off the list. The FTO list is really an incentive to them to start talking and give up terrorism."

The blacklist also includes Communist Party founder Jose Maria Sison.

Manila has said the blacklisting is the decision of foreign governments, and the rebels should first stop their attacks before requesting their removal from the lists.

Violence continued on Saturday in southern Compostela Valley Province, where guerrillas attacked a police outpost, killing one officer

and wounding two others before fleeing with the guns and ammunition of the policemen.

In a statement from Oslo, the government panel said the parties were willing "to advance the peace process and address the root causes of the armed conflict."

But it said the rebels have "to show legal and moral basis to be removed from the list," without elaborating.

The government and the rebels also agreed to undertake confidence-building measures to improve the atmosphere of the talks, including indemnification of victims of human rights violations under late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and the release of political prisoners and detainees, it said.

About \$200 million out of \$684 million in seized Marcos deposits are being eyed for compensation for more than

9,500 Marcos victims.

"I'm happy with the results of these talks. It's just like snatching victory from the jaws of defeat," the head of the government delegation, Silvestre Bello III, said in the statement.

"It only shows that both parties are committed to advancing the peace process."

The guerrillas began fighting for a Marxist state in 1969. The conflict has killed or displaced thousands.

Vietnam and five in Thailand.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Sihasak Phuangketkeow said the talks are "part of our efforts to strengthen ties with neighboring countries," and that besides bird flu, the two sides will discuss security, economic and social issues.

He did not give further details.

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra in late 2002 initiated the idea of holding joint Cabinet meetings with Thailand's neighbors in the region to discuss bilateral issues and foster closer relations.

Report: al-Qaida planned attack in Japan

TOKYO (AP)—A senior member of the al-Qaida terror network told U.S. authorities the group had plans to carry out attacks in Japan during the 2002 World Cup soccer tournament, local media reported Saturday.

U.S. authorities advised Japan of the information, which is believed to have come from the militant Islamic group's third-ranking official, Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, the daily Sankei newspaper reported, citing anonymous government sources.

The attacks were not carried out because al-Qaida did not have a network in Japan, which hosted the 2002 event jointly with South Korea, according to the Sankei.

The report said Mohammed was familiar with Japan. During a three-month stay in 1987, he reportedly studied rock-drilling machinery at a plant in central Japan, the newspaper said, citing Japanese security authorities.

Mohammed, a mastermind of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, was captured last March in



AP

Big Swan Stadium, shown in this undated photo, was one of 10 Japanese venues for the 2002 World Cup in Niigata, northern Japan. A senior member of the al-Qaida terror network told U.S. authorities the group had plans to carry out attacks in Japan during the 2002 World Cup soccer tournament, local media reported Saturday. Feb. 14, 2004.

Pakistan and is in U.S. custody.

Kyodo news agency carried a similar report.

Concerns about possible terror threats against Japan or Japanese abroad have intensified in recent months. Many fear that the government's decision to send its military to Iraq to help with reconstruction efforts could

draw such attacks.

Last November, an alleged al-Qaida operative threatened to attack Tokyo if it sent troops to Iraq.

Earlier this week, there were two mortar attacks on a southern Iraqi town where the Japanese troops are based. But Japan's defense chief said they did not appear to be aimed at the soldiers.

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Bird flu kills Thai boy; toll rises to 20

By DANIEL COONEY
AP WRITER

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)

A 13-year-old Thai boy died of bird flu Saturday, bringing to 20 the number of human fatalities from the disease that's also killed millions of chickens and ducks across Asia and is now feared to have jumped to other animals.

The boy died late at night at a hospital in the country's northeast, where he'd been in intensive care after testing positive for the avian flu virus on Thursday, said Charal

Trinvuthipong, director-general of the Public Health Ministry's Department of Communicable Disease Control.

The disease is now confirmed in six human deaths in Thailand and 14 in Vietnam.

The Thai boy, whose identity hasn't been released, became sick 10 days after his family's chickens started dying mysteriously, a ministry statement said earlier.

"The boy's condition got slightly better before it worsened rapidly," and he then died, Charal said, adding that

the disease had harmed the victim's kidneys.

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization warned that the virus still has not been controlled in several Asian countries despite the culling of millions of chickens and ducks.

After ravaging poultry flocks, the disease is now hitting other species, killing a heron in Cambodia and possibly a leopard and cranes in Thailand and pheasants in Taiwan.

A zoo in northern Thailand has isolated two pandas from chickens that run loose near the

bears' compound over fears about the spread of bird flu, the facility's director said Saturday, while a Cambodian zoo shut down its bird section after 56 wild birds and some 400 parakeets have mysteriously dropped dead.

Indian authorities said they plan to hold an emergency meeting of health and agricultural officials from seven South Asian nations on Monday in New Delhi to draft a strategy to prevent the spread of bird flu in the highly populous region.

A 1-year-old Thai girl from

northeastern Kalasin province's Huay Mek district on Saturday became the latest person suspected of having the disease, said Dr. Thawat Sunthrajarn, deputy permanent-secretary of the Public Health Ministry.

The girl became sick with a fever and cough a week after her family's 10 chickens became sick and died, he said.

In Cambodia, a gray heron that died last month at a Cambodian zoo has tested positive for the avian flu, the country's third confirmed case of the H5N1 virus.

Pin Lyun, the director of the Phnom Tamao zoo, said the bird section of the zoo was closed over fears that bird flu could spread as officials tried to determine what killed 56 wild birds and some 400 parakeets.

In Thailand, Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment Prapat Panya-chatraksa said Friday that tests showed that a clouded leopard died of bird flu on Jan. 27 at Khao Khiew Zoo in Chonburi province, 44 miles south of Bangkok.

China, S. Korea discuss N. Korea weapons

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

China's point man on North Korea met with South Korean officials Saturday ahead of crucial six-nation talks aimed at resolving the standoff over the communist state's nuclear weapons program.

Vice Foreign Minister Wang Yi and South Korea's top Foreign Ministry officials called for joint efforts to achieve results at the second round of meetings, which begin Feb. 25 in Beijing.

"We hope that substantive results could be made through joint efforts at the second round of talks," Wang said, heading into

talks with Deputy Foreign Minister Lee Soo-hyuck in Seoul.

Wang and Lee represented their nations in a first round of six-nation talks in Beijing in August, which ended without much progress. The United States, the two Koreas, China, Russia and Japan will begin another round of talks Feb. 25.

"Whatever difficulties surfaces, we must firmly push ahead with the process of peace talks," said Wang, who recently discussed the nuclear dispute with North Korea Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan.

Soon after the talks in

Beijing, North Korea said it gained Chinese support for its proposal to freeze nuclear weapons programs in exchange for economic concessions from the United States.

North Korea wants Washington to provide free oil shipments, lift economic sanctions and remove the North from its list of countries that sponsor terrorism.

Washington has demanded that North Korea first start dismantling its nuclear programs.

The extent of North Korea's nuclear capabilities also are in dispute.

The United States believes

weapons



AP

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wang Yi, right, shakes hands with South Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Lee Soo-hyuck before a meeting to talk on the North Korean nuclear issue at the Foreign Ministry in Seoul, South Korea, Saturday, Feb. 14, 2004.

that North Korea has a secret nuclear weapons program based on highly enriched

uranium, in addition to its program using plutonium.

U.S. officials believe the

North already has one or two nuclear bombs and could make several more within months.

China executes convicted killer, rapist

BEIJING (AP)—China on Saturday executed a man convicted of murdering 67 people in what media said might be the country's longest killing spree in modern history.

Yang Xinhua, 38, was put to death in Luohu, the city where he was convicted Feb. 1 in the central province of Henan, according to state television.

Yang was convicted of 67 killings and 23 rapes in Henan and three other provinces during a crime spree that began in 2001 following

his release from a labor camp and ended with his capture in November. He sometimes traveled from town to town by bicycle.

Yang had confessed and police matched his DNA with that found at several crime scenes, according to earlier reports.

The brief report on state television didn't say how Yang was put to death. Chinese courts use either lethal injection or a gunshot to the head or neck.

Authorities barred the public and reporters from Yang's hour-

long trial, citing privacy concerns in rape cases.

Little is known about his motives, but earlier reports said Yang had been dumped by his girlfriend and "desperately wanted to retaliate against society."

Yang, who has been described as mentally unbalanced, also served his term in the labor camp for rape and theft, earlier reports said.

Details of the victims' identities and details of their deaths weren't released.

S. Korea approves sending troops to Iraq

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's parliament on Friday approved the government's plan to send 3,000 troops to Iraq, responding to a call from the United States, its key ally, for military help in restoring stability to the nation.

The troop deployment will make South Korea the third-largest contributor to coalition forces after the United States and Britain.

"We express gratitude to the National Assembly for making

a tough decision in consideration of national interests," said Yoon Tae-young, a spokesman for President Roh Moo-hyun.

South Korea already has 465 medics and engineers operating in the southern Iraqi city of Nasiriyah.

It hopes to send the new forces to the northern Iraqi oil town of Kirkuk before the end of April. The new deployment, likely to include special forces commandos and combat-ready marines, will be solely

responsible for security and reconstruction around Kirkuk.

Defense Minister Cho Young-kil said a 200-member advance team would head for Iraq in early April. "Safety is the most important consideration," Cho said.

Over 52,000 soldiers have applied for the mission, which would pay \$1,100 a month to a sergeant who would normally make only \$15 at home. In South Korea, military service is mandatory.

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World

Rebels hit Iraq police station, kill 23

By MARIAM FAM
AP WRITER

FALLUJAH, Iraq (AP)—Guerrillas overwhelmed an Iraqi police station west of Baghdad, meeting little resistance as they went room to room shooting police in a bold, well-organized assault that killed 23 people and freed dozens of prisoners, officials said.

The fierce, well-coordinated daylight attack on Saturday in Fallujah—unprecedented in its scale—raised questions whether Iraqi police and defense forces are ready to battle insurgents as the U.S. military pulls back from the fight in advance of the November U.S. presidential election. It also underscored the tenacity of a resistance that continues despite the Dec. 13 arrest of Saddam Hussein.

The attack came at the end of a bloody week in which about 100 people were killed in suicide bombings at a police station in Iskandariyah and an army recruiting center in Baghdad. Those attacks and Saturday's Fallujah raid suggest a campaign by insurgents to strike at key institutions of the U.S.-backed Iraqi administration.

Iraqi police stations have frequently been targeted by insurgents before, but not by so many gunmen in such a well-coordinated assault.

Before the attack, the gunmen

set up checkpoints and blocked the road leading to the police station, but residents did not notify police, Deputy Interior Minister Ahmed Kadhum Ibrahim said in Baghdad. Nearby storeowners were warned not to open Saturday morning, one shopkeeper in Fallujah said.

The battle left 17 policemen, two civilians and four attackers dead. At least 37 people—nearly all policemen—were wounded. Two wounded attackers were captured, but the rest escaped.

Police in the Fallujah station complained they had only small arms—nothing larger than an automatic rifle—in the face of dozens of fighters armed with heavy machine guns, hand grenades and rocket-propelled grenades. No U.S. forces took part in the battle.

One wounded policeman, Qais Jameel, said he heard the attackers speaking a foreign language that he speculated was Farsi. Rumors were circulating that a Shiite Muslim militia with ties to Iran, the Badr Brigade, was behind the attack on this Sunni town.

The United States wants the police, civil defense forces and the military to take the front line against the persistent guerrilla war when U.S. administrators hand power over to a new Iraqi government on June 30.

U.S. troops will take a lower profile, pulling out of most towns.

Iraqi men search among bodies on the ground for the body of a loved one killed in Wednesday's car bomb attack outside an army recruitment station in Baghdad, at a hospital morgue on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2004.

AP

But their continued presence in the country would likely mean the insurgency, led by Saddam loyalists and foreign Islamic fighters, also will continue its campaign of violence.

About 300 Iraqi security forces have been killed since they were re-established in May, according to the military. The U.S. military has been organizing the reconstruction of the Iraqi security forces.

The police force has neared its planned goal of 71,000 members. The Iraqi Civil Defense Corps, in charge of internal security, has about 21,000 members and is planned to reach 92,000. The army is recruiting a force of 40,000 soldiers.

In Saturday's attack, about 25 gunmen, some masked and shouting the Islamic slogan, "There is no god but Allah," stormed the police station, witnesses said. At the same time, two dozen more attackers pinned down forces at a nearby compound of the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps with a barrage of RPGs and gunfire to keep them from coming to the aid of the police, according to the witnesses.



Fourth UN observer killed in Congo

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP)—A fourth U.N. observer has died in volatile northeastern Congo, where rival tribal factions fight for control of the mineral-rich region.

A Kenyan army officer, investigating reports of fighting between the rival Hema and Lendu tribal militias, was shot to death Thursday when his U.N. military convoy came under fire in Ituri province, said Leocadio Salmeron, spokesman for the world body's Congo mission.

The officer, whose name was not released, was the fourth U.N. military observer to die in Ituri. Last May, an observer from Jordan and another from Malawi

were captured, killed and mutilated by tribal fighters in a gold-mining town outside the provincial capital, Bunia.

In April, a Russian U.N. military observer was killed and another injured when they drove over a land mine outside Bunia.

Until recently, Hema and Lendu tribal fighters were locked in a bitter struggle for control of the province, but the main factions have now forged an alliance in the face of mounting pressure from a beefed-up U.N. force that is deploying to stabilize the troubled province.

U.N. observers were visiting Katoto to probe reports of fighting

in the area on Monday between rival factions of Hema militias,

Salmeron said by phone from Bunia, the provincial capital.

"The mission had just spent two hours on the ground, investigating the report of fighting and evaluating the situation by interviewing local residents," he said.

Some 4,700 U.N. troops and unarmed military observers are in Ituri to stabilize the province and protect civilians, U.N. staff and aid workers from tribal fighting that has killed at least 50,000 people and forced some 500,000 to flee their homes since 1999.

state rehab

Thousands protest French ban on scarves

PARIS (AP)—Thousands of people, many of them women wearing head scarves, marched in France Saturday to protest a law banning the Islamic coverings and other religious apparel in public schools.

Protesters said the law was discriminatory and would prevent Muslim girls from attending school.

"We can't conceive that an exclusion law has been voted, a law that will prevent young adolescent women from their

right to get education," Khadidja Marfouk said during the march in eastern Paris.

Police estimated that 2,600 people marched in the southern city of Lyon and another 1,300 in Paris, just two of a dozen cities where demonstrations were planned. Organizers said the turnout was higher.

The government wants to have the law—necessary, it says, to keep religion out of secular schools—in place for the academic year starting in September.

Cyprus cautious about reunification talks

LARNACA, Cyprus (AP)—Cypriots on this divided island played down a U.N.-brokered agreement to hold new talks on reunifying the Greek Cypriot-controlled south with the Turkish-occupied north, saying Saturday that much work remained before the island becomes whole again after 30 years.

On Friday, Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders agreed in New York to resume negotiations next week on reunifying Cyprus before the island joins the European Union on May 1. The sides hope to reach a comprehensive

settlement by late March, with a final plan going before the two Cypriot communities in separate referenda in April.

Residents on both sides of the U.N.-patrolled buffer zone splitting the island reacted cautiously to the news.

"All that happened in New York is that they agreed to talk again, but the two sides are still as far apart as ever on fundamental issues," said Christodoulos Georgiou, a Greek Cypriot university student.

The "agreement to let (U.N. Secretary-General) Kofi Annan bridge differences if they fail to

agree and put the agreement for approval to referenda is the only hopeful sign."

Georgiou was referring to provisions stating that if both sides fail to resolve everything in the coming negotiations, Annan will decide the outstanding issues before the referenda.

The two sides are scheduled to meet again Thursday. The negotiations will focus on a U.N. blueprint for reunification that calls for a single state with Greek and Turkish Cypriot federal regions linked through a weak central government.

On the Turkish side of the

island, businessman Ali Mehmet said he was delighted by news of the agreement.

"We are all for accepting the Annan plan as this will open the way for a united Cyprus to join the European Union, something that Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash and Ankara have been rejecting all these years," he said.

"As a member of the EU we will all have a brighter future."

Living standards in the Turkish north are considerably lower than in the Greek south.

Cyprus was divided in 1974 after a coup and Turkish invasion.

If the island is still divided on May 1, the EU laws and benefits will apply only to people in the Greek Cypriot south.

Greek Cypriot President Tassos Papadopoulos and the Greek government have stressed that the reunification plan must comply with EU basic law.

This would ensure freedom of movement and the right to property, leading to the unhindered return of Greek Cypriot refugees to the Turkish-occupied north, something rejected by the Turkish side and restricted in the Annan plan.

Savas Shekersavas, a Greek

Cypriot refugee in the north, said he opposed the latest plan.

"The acceptance of the Annan plan as a basis for discussion is a betrayal as this plan rules out my right to return to my home and to regain my property," he said. "I would certainly vote against it in a referendum."

The last round of talks collapsed in April 2003, when Denktash rejected Annan's plan because it provided for the return of half the 200,000 Greek Cypriot refugees to Turkish-occupied territory in the north. He said this would eventually wipe out Turkish Cypriots.

Palestinian official wary of US plan

By JASON KEYSER
AP WRITER

JERUSALEM (AP)—The Palestinian prime minister expressed concern Saturday that the United States may be moving away from its "road map" to peace for the Middle East.

In an apparent effort to satisfy one of Washington's key demands, Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia announced he was changing the way Palestinian security forces are paid.

A group of U.S. envoys is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon next week to discuss an alternative Israeli plan involving the unilateral withdrawal of troops from some Palestinian areas. Qureia said there are signs the United States may come out in support of the plan.

"What I heard is that they may accept Sharon's plan. And this 'may' is irritating and worrying," Qureia told reporters Saturday.

Palestinians fear the new plan would leave them with far less land than the stalled "road map" peace plan that the United States has championed for months.

The road map aims to end more than three years of fighting and build a Palestinian state through negotiations by the two sides.

Under Sharon's plan, Israel would withdraw soldiers and settlers from parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and impose a temporary boundary between Israel and the West Bank.

Sharon first announced the plan back in December, saying he would put the program into



Palestinian masked militants take positions during a gunfight with the Israeli troops at the Rafah refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2004.

action in the coming months if efforts to restart peace talks fail.

Neither side has lived up to commitments under the first phase of the road map, initiated in June. However, the Palestinians did announce plans Saturday to satisfy one of Washington's key demands in the area of financial reform.

Following the weekly Cabinet meeting, Qureia said that Palestinian security personnel would now be paid directly into their personal bank accounts. In the past, lump sums

of cash were given to commanders who then distributed it to their men—an invitation to corruption.

"At the end of this month, all the security forces will receive their salaries through the banks," he told reporters.

The Palestinians want to establish an independent state in all of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Arab neighborhoods of east Jerusalem - territories Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war.

Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said that by

discussing the plan with Sharon, visiting U.S. envoys would send the wrong message.

"Doesn't that mean they are abandoning the bilateral negotiations and abandoning the road map? Because the whole idea of unilateral steps means replacing negotiations with dictation," Erekat told The Associated Press.

U.S. officials have welcomed the idea of dismantling settlements but are wary of unilateral moves made outside the framework of peace talks.

Moscow roof collapse kills 13, injures 95

MOSCOW (AP)—The snow-covered glass roof of a Moscow water park collapsed Saturday evening onto hundreds of people, killing at least 13—including three children—and injuring 95, authorities said.

Rescuers heard voices from under the rubble and were working to retrieve survivors, Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov said, according to the Interfax news agency. A large crane was lifting heavy chunks of concrete and metal away from the pool area, while emergency workers used blow torches to cut through metal beams.

Initial reports said the roof at the Transvaal water park collapsed after an explosion, but officials, including Luzhkov, later said there was no evidence of a blast. City police spokesman Pavel Kleimovsky was quoted by the ITAR-Tass news agency as saying the roof collapsed under the weight of accumulated snow.

"There was a loud noise," an unidentified witness told Russia's Channel One television. "Everybody started to run. I started to run. All of the roof over the zone of water collapsed."

The roof collapsed at about 7:30 p.m. as the water park in Moscow's southwestern

suburbs was filled with about 600 people basking in its heat while temperatures outside hovered around 5.

Rescue workers rushed bloodied, moaning people clad in bikinis and swim trunks on stretchers to waiting ambulances, while others clambered out barefoot into the snow.

In footage from inside the park, the NTV television station showed beams apparently made of concrete that had fallen on the park's twisting water slide. A reporter for Eko Moskva radio said part of a wall also collapsed.

Thirteen people were killed and another 95 were injured, said Andrei Legoshin, head of the crisis center of the Emergency Situations Ministry. Three of the dead were children, Andrei Seltsovsky of the Moscow health department said, adding that 19 other children were hospitalized.

A child's birthday party was being held in the pool area when the roof collapsed, Moscow police spokesman Kirill Mazurin said.

The accident was caused by "shortcomings in construction or shortcomings in technical maintenance," Moscow prosecutor Anatoly Zuyev said, adding that a criminal investigation would determine whether negligence was involved.

3 ice climbers die in Canada

BANFF, Alberta (AP)—Two of three ice climbers killed in an avalanche at Banff National Park were experienced mountaineers, police officers and members of a Washington state mountain rescue unit, the unit's operations chairman said Friday.

"These were experienced climbers," said Gus Bush of the Tacoma, Wash., Mountain Rescue Unit. "I knew they had planned to go. This was the third year they've gone up there. They were climbing waterfalls."

The victims were not wearing avalanche beacons, Canadian authorities said.

The victims were identified as Pierce County Sheriff's Deputy James Andruess, 66; Redmond, Wash., police officer John Miner, 53; and Russ Howard, 42, a civilian employee with the Redmond police.

Andruess and Miner were active in Tacoma Mountain Rescue searches, though Howard was not, Bush said.

Andruess helped search for Dan Witkowski, a 25-year-old skier who was lost for five days last month near a ski area east of Seattle, Bush said. Witkowski survived, but was undergoing surgery Friday to amputate his feet and ankles.

Dominican commandos gird Haitian rebels

GONAIVES, Haiti (AP)—Haitian rebels seeking to topple the president brought reinforcements from the neighboring Dominican Republic, including the exiled former leader of 1980s death squads and a former police chief accused of fomenting a coup, witnesses said Saturday, as police fled two more northern towns.

Twenty commandos arrived, led by Louis-Jodel Chamblain, a former Haitian soldier who headed army death squads in 1987 and a militia known as the Front for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti, or FRAPH, which killed and maimed dozens of people between 1992 and 1994.

Guy Philippe, a former police chief who fled to the

Dominican Republic after being accused by the Haitian government of fomenting a coup in 2002, also arrived in Gonaives to help the rebels prepare for an expected showdown with the government. It was unclear when the volunteers arrived.

Witnesses reached by telephone said the men were working with rebels in Gonaives

but were massing in Saint-Michel de l'Atalaye, about 28 miles to the east.

The rebels launched a bloody uprising nine days ago from Gonaives, 70 miles northwest of Port-au-Prince and Haiti's fourth-largest city, seeking President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's ouster. Some 50 people have been killed.

Health & Fitness

Controlling outbursts

■ Bringing laughing, crying spells under control

By SHARI ROAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

As far back as 1872, British naturalist Charles Darwin observed that people with brain injuries or illnesses were sometimes stricken with uncontrollable, and often inappropriate, outbursts of anger, laughter or grief. "Certain brain diseases...have a special tendency to induce weeping," he wrote.

Even in modern times, there have been no specific treatments for the mysterious problem, now called "pseudobulbar affect."

The condition occurs in people who have had strokes or brain injuries or who suffer from neurodegenerative diseases such as multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, Lou Gehrig's disease and Parkinson's disease. The causes remain unknown, but more than 130 years after the condition's discovery, sufferers finally may have a medication to treat it.

A new drug, Neurodex, has been shown to reduce emotional outbursts in people with Lou Gehrig's disease (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis).

It's now being tested on MS patients at 53 centers nationwide.

and on people with brain injuries and neurodegenerative disorders, says the drug's manufacturer, Avanir Pharmaceuticals of San Diego.

"It usually takes a long time for a drug to get from the lab to patients," said Dr. Richard Alan Smith, director of the Scripps Center for Neurologic Study in La Jolla, Calif. "But this has moved along at a pretty rapid pace."

The drug's effects on emotional disturbances was discovered by accident about 10 years ago.

Smith was studying Lou Gehrig's disease, which attacks nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, and had begun working with dextromethorphan, the active ingredient in cough syrups. He thought dextromethorphan might help stop the attacks on nerve cells by blocking a chemical in the brain called glutamate.

After altering the drug so that it would remain in the body longer, Smith gave it to patients. The drug didn't stop the disease process, but patients quickly reported feeling more emotional stability while on the medication.

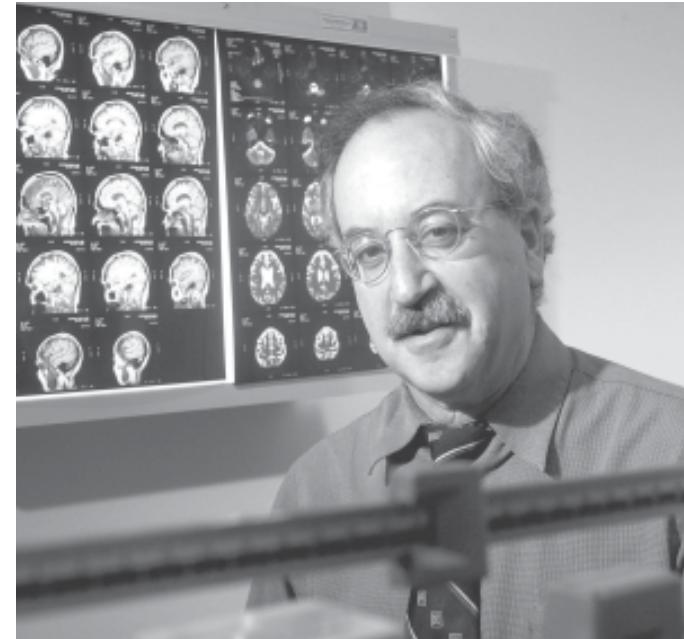
They have long needed such

help. The uncontrollable outbursts of laughing or crying that are hallmarks of the disorder—as well as displays of anger and frustration—can make family relationships difficult, sidetracking rehabilitation efforts.

"Pseudobulbar affect can be very debilitating for patients going back out into the community," said Dr. Richard Zorowitz, an associate professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation at the University of Pennsylvania. "Patients find themselves in very embarrassing situations, and it might cause them to be more withdrawn."

Emotional stability sometimes can make a difference in whether a patient is cared for at home or in a nursing facility, Smith said.

"If your loved one is taking care of you and you're crying with the slightest provocation, it is really tough for caretakers," he said. "Family members often think they're not doing a good job taking care of the patient. They think the patient is depressed. We've been sweeping this condition under the rug for a long time and not appreciating its consequences fully."



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Dr. Richard Alan Smith found that a drug he was testing helped ALS patients who displayed uncontrollable, inappropriate emotions.

in lower regions of the brain, such as the cerebellum, which is primarily responsible for motor control.

"The lower centers of the brain are involved in regulating traffic to the brain," Smith said. "It looks like the same part of the

What to know

- Characterized by uncontrollable emotional outbursts, such as laughing or crying, that may be inappropriate or unrelated to a situation. Such outbursts are not a true indication of the person's emotional state.
- Once diagnosed, usually a lifelong disorder.
- Diagnosed in about 1 million Americans.
- Occurs in some people with brain injuries or neurological disorders, including about 50 percent of those with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, 40 percent of those with Alzheimer's disease, 11 percent of people within one year of a stroke and 10 percent of those with multiple sclerosis.

Source: Avanir Pharmaceuticals/
Los Angeles Times

brain that is controlling motor control is coordinating some of what is happening in the higher centers of the brain."

Neurodex appears to have few side effects. So far, dizziness and fatigue are the most common complaints about the drug.

Eating right: Striking oil

By SALLY SQUIRES
THE WASHINGTON POST

Confused.

That's how a Lean Plate Club member described feeling in last week's Web chat.

"I normally use olive oil and canola oil for all my cooking and baking, and I often buy inexpensive grocery store brands," wrote this LPCer from Silver Spring, Md. "But I recently read in a newsletter that I need to be looking for the more expensive 'expeller pressed' oils. What's the scoop on cooking and salad oils for everyday use?"

First, a little background. Both cold-pressed and expeller oils cost more because their extraction processes are more expensive than those used for other oils. The act of pressing oil—out of olives, soybeans, corn, safflower, nuts or whatever—produces friction and therefore heat. Cold-pressed oils are extracted with presses that are kept at room temperature. Expeller oils come from the very first pressing and are generally also extracted at a slightly lower temperature than other oils. This is the method that produces the thick, extra-virgin

olive oil that often has a slight greenish tint and a stronger flavor than most oils.

at U.S. Department of Agriculture's Nutrition Research Center at Tufts University in Boston.

▪ Aim for oils rich in omega-3 fatty acids. Important for the heart, the brain and the joints, these fatty acids are often get less attention than omega-6 fatty acids. Canola and flaxseed oil are high in omega-3s.

▪ Easy does it. Whatever oil you pour, it's still fat, the most calorie-dense of nutrients. Each gram has nine calories—more than twice the amount in protein or carbohydrates. That works out to about 120 calories per tablespoon. So go ahead and pour, but in moderation.

▪ Go for variety. That's one way to cover the nutritional bases. A few examples: Sesame oil contains phytosterols, which can help lower blood cholesterol. Soybean oil has carotenoids, which are converted in the body to vitamin A. Rice bran oil has the antioxidant oryzanol.

▪ Store oil in a cool, dark place. Once a bottle is opened, "the clock is ticking on the oil," because oxygen causes oxidation, notes Fereidoun Shahidi, a food chemist at Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland. His advice: Buy small quantities.

tribune subs



A model wears a rose gown and emerald green fur in the Jennifer Nicholson Fall/Winter 2004 collection, Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2004, in New York.

AP

Life & Style

Fur and feathers in style at Fashion Week

By FRANCINE PARNE
FOR THE AP

It may not come as welcome news to animal activists, but as the trends are tallied for the Fashion Week collections which wrapped up on Friday, the message for fall is fur.

If designers have their way, a zoo-full of looks including coats with enormous fox collars and vests in mink will be filling the stores. And underneath that outerwear, designers may be banking on their customers wearing dresses dripping with feathers from guinea hen or ostrich.

In another theme playing on a controversial social issue, Richard Tyler's fall collection featured two female models dressed as a bride and groom.

Still, there are other looks that may gain wider acceptance. Like, how about a season of bright colors, to banish the winter doldrums' typical grays and browns? The favored fabric is tweed, the better to pair with cashmere.

Skirts and dresses are long, to the knee or past, and lean - unless they are Ralph Lauren's billowy circle skirts which swing wide with grace. Lingerie looks, such as slinky slip dresses and corsets, are not going away anytime soon. And the footwear of choice is a tall boot that rises to the knee or higher.

In a season when the runways are crawling with animal influences from showy sable collars to alligator boots and animal prints, designers are coloring their

furs. The fox collar shows up in bright blue at Esteban Cortazar (on a black cashmere coat), in crimson at Douglas Hannant (on a matching cashmere suit), and in orange or fuchsia at Anna Sui (accessorizing cardigans and jean jackets).

And if the color doesn't grab attention, the scale will, because many designers are cutting these collars to look imposing.

But if it's not a fur collar, it's a fur hat from Marc Jacobs, or a fur vest, in pink at Matthew Williamson and in eggplant at Carolina Herrera and Douglas Hannant. This season's tiny jacket, called a "shrug," shows up at Michael Kors in lavender mink and at Donna Karan in loden-colored broadtail lamb.

More generously proportioned is the ubiquitous poncho, which Ralph Rucci casts in honey sable. If that's not enough to spell fur, Ralph Rucci and other designers sent out big fur muffs draped over the models' arms, and stoles that swept down the runway.

Perhaps it is no wonder that People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals staged a protest on the steps of the Fashion Week tents.

Meanwhile, gold is lending a gilded touch. That means gold leaf embellishments on cashmere scarves and evening gowns at Carolina Herrera; gold pumps at Nanette Lepore; gold lame boots and a gold sable shoulder bag at Oscar de la Renta; and gold linen pants at Zac Posen. Cynthia Rowley's gold vest combines two trends into one.

The color story continues. At BCBG, shades like sapphire, emerald, amethyst and amber are combined in ways that you did not know matched, leading to odd combos such as a navy jacket, sapphire tank top, leather pants in a color like mustard, and mahogany leather boots.

Other designers, most notably Ralph Lauren, buck the trend and offer quiet monochromatic separates: his first six looks were all in camel. And John Varvatos stays the course with a winter-worthy palette of browns and black.

Despite the wintry season, some clothes are positively skimpy. Lingerie looks ruled at Narciso Rodriguez, who showed body-hugging slip dresses in soft colors with bra tops and straps; at Chaiken the look extended to slip dresses and camisoles. Esteban Cortazar's naughty-girl back-seamed stockings underscore the mood. At Calvin Klein, drapey lounge looks suggested pajama and bathrobe styles, in soft, washed silk. The sheer silk chiffons and washed silk V-neck dresses that were open to nearly the waist meant that some models took to the runway with breasts exposed.

Tweed is a favorite fabric. Oscar de la Renta sets the tone by pairing tweed flared skirts with the season's ubiquitous guinea feather trim. At Cynthia Steffe, a moss tweed hunting vest exemplifies her tribute to British riding clothes, as does her loden tweed "prep school blazer," a look that she says works for either town or country.

Dressing-up diversity

By BOOTH MOORE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

When costume designer Cynthia Summers was first approached about working on Showtime's "The L Word," she wasn't interested. "I wasn't sure how fun it would be to dress a bunch of butch girls," she says. What she didn't know was that she'd be costuming an L world of Gucci stilettos, Marc Jacobs miniskirts and white patent leather vintage Courreges jackets.

In the show, about a lesbian couple and their clique in Los Angeles, Jennifer Beals and her costars chat about clothes almost as much as Sarah Jessica Parker and hers do on "Sex and the City." Clearly, Showtime hopes designer duds and stylish story lines will attract viewers, but with nary a Birkenstock or buzz cut in sight, "The L Word's" feminized image of lesbians has left some wondering: Where are the dykes?

On the network's online message board, one posting offered a list of things a "real lesbian show" would have, including "bi-level hairdos, hiking boots, baseball hats, polo shirts and at least one character who doesn't shave her legs and armpits. These girls dress way too cute!"

The show's fantasy lesbians are not the prevailing stereotype for heterosexuals

either, according to Ann Ciasullo, who teaches gender studies and pop culture at the University of Oregon. Most people envision lesbians as butch dykes in sleeveless flannel shirts—so how to represent lesbians on TV in a politically correct way becomes a quandary.

"Think about images of African Americans, and someone like Sidney Poitier, who was seen as changing the image of black men in film but by some critics was seen as an Uncle Tom figure," Ciasullo says. "The same thing goes for lesbians. The stereotype is the butch lesbian, and to get away from that, you have the feminine lesbian. But as images get feminized, lesbianism gets subsumed."

Issues of style are pertinent, because historically dress has been part of lesbian identity and used as an identifier, according to Frances Stevens, publisher of Curve magazine in San Francisco. Today lesbians wear anything and everything, though they still rely on "gaydar" to parse the visual clues that might answer the question: Is she or isn't she? And judging from the first few episodes of "The L Word," in which the virtues of tapered jeans with high heels, painted nails and a sundress on the first date are all discussed, the signs aren't always clear. "We're as diverse as the heterosexual community," Stevens says.

Notes on what's new in fashion

By Maria Blackburn
THE BALTIMORE SUN

We admit it—on occasion we've been known to buy cosmetics for the free tote bags, sample sizes and baguettes beauty companies are known to give away.

That's why we especially liked the freebie that comes with Joey New York's new line of Luscious Products for The Body. It's a pink vinyl lunch bag designed by celebrity artist Alvaro. We find it just perfect for holding carrot sticks and diet sodas or meatball sandwiches and banana cream pudding.

Plus it's graced with the images of some pampered bathing beauties. Buy the Hawaiian Spa Body Collection for \$42 and get the bag filled with Coconut Oil Body Moisturizer; Hawaiian Pineapple Hand, Elbow and Foot Cream; Seaweed Body Wash; and White Chocolate Body Shimmer. Mmmm.

Or purchase components of the collection separately for \$18 to \$24 at Bath and Body Works stores, www.sephora.com or by calling (800) 563-9691.

One whiff puts you in the mood for love, weight loss, whatever



AP
Jim Caviezel, right, portraying Jesus Christ, carries a cross on the set of "The Passion of the Christ" in this Jan. 24, 2003 photo. Director Mel Gibson has insisted that the controversial film, set for release Feb. 25, 2004, does not malign Jews.

Gibson defends 'The Passion of the Christ'

Mel Gibson said the graphic depiction of Christ's crucifixion in his upcoming film "The Passion of the Christ" was meant to make viewers realize the extent of Christ's sacrifice.

"I think it pushes one over the edge so that they see the enormity, the enormity of that sacrifice," he said during an interview with Diane Sawyer for ABC's "Primetime" that airs Monday.

Gibson, who funded, directed and co-wrote the upcoming movie, said he wanted the movie to be shocking and extreme.

"It's very violent and if you

don't like it, don't go, you know?" Gibson said in excerpts of the interview provided by ABC. "If you want to leave halfway through, go ahead."

The R-rated movie, set for release Feb. 25, details the last 12 hours in the life of Jesus. Gibson maintains it's a faithful biblical narrative, but some worry that its depiction of the role of some Jews in the death of Christ may lead to an increase in anti-Semitism.

Among them is Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, who has seen the film twice.

Gibson told Sawyer the film

was not anti-Semitic and was instead about "faith, hope, love and forgiveness."

"To be anti-Semitic is a sin," the actor-director said. "It's been condemned by one Papal Council after another. To be anti-Semitic is to be un-Christian, and I'm not."

The "Primetime" program also includes an interview of Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League. Foxman told Sawyer he does not believe Gibson or the film are anti-Semitic but added that the movie "has the potential to fuel anti-Semitism, to reinforce it." (AP)

By KORKY VANN
THE HARTFORD COURANT

No question, dieting is tough. But this time, you're determined to be a big loser. You've memorized the South Beach menus, exorcised the house of bad carbs and filled the fridge with veggies and sugar-free Jell-O. Everything's going great—until you hop off the treadmill, head for the shower and lather up with that wonderful vanilla-cookie-scented gel you got for Christmas.

The next thing you know, you're in the drive-through lane at the local coffee shop ordering a danish and double caramel latte.

It didn't have to happen, says Cheryl Scott, CEO of Aromapothecary, a line of customized bath and body products.

"Fragrances can affect mood and attitudes," Scott says. "And you can actually multitask in the shower or bath by using treatments that help you address and achieve your well-being goals and needs."

At the Aromapothecary counter in Barneys department store in New York, for example, customers can request specially formulated gels, creams and lotions to help with everything from water retention and cellulite to stress-reduction and hangovers. They range in price from \$32 to \$75.

"Generally, sweet basil can help you clarify your thoughts,

sage is calming, while citrus

scents such as orange or lemon are stimulating," Scott says. "But scents really do affect everyone differently. You've got to find what works best for you."

Store shelves these days are filled with a salad bowl of bath and body products all designed to energize, invigorate and help keep you in a healthy mind-set.

Stay on your diet and kick-start your day with a refreshing scalp treatment and shampoo. Philip B's Peppermint and Avocado Shampoo, \$22.50, is made with 16 plant extracts and essential oils to clean hair and stimulate your scalp. Follow up with Philip B's Creme of the Crop styling/finishing cream, \$26.50, made with carrot extract and silk proteins. Available at www.philipb.com.

From Davies Gate, the GardenMade Collection is filled with extracts of herbs and veggies. GardenMade Body Lotion, \$18, is packed with parsley and other natural plant oils and extracts to soothe and soften winter-chapped skin. Fennel Face Exfoliator, \$25, contains crushed fennel seeds and green papaya to remove dead skin cells and toxins. GardenMade Perfume Concentrate, \$25, contains essences of sweet basil, rosemary and blue and clary sage. Available at department stores or at www.daviesgate.com.

Healthy doesn't have to mean boring. Spice up your Atkins guy's morning routine with Molton Brown's Recharge Black Pepper Bodywash, \$23. The manly gel formula is infused with black pepper oil to boost circulation and leave him feeling warmed up and ready to hit the ground running. Available at Sephora and other department stores.

Stubble is in trouble with Nature's Gate Organics Creamy Shave Gels, \$6.99. The ultra-moisturizing, all-natural, unisex gels, infused with botanicals, essential oils and vitamins, are available in Cucumber & Mint, Lemongrass & Aloe and other

certified vegan formulas. Nature's Gate products are available at health-food stores, pharmacies and grocery stores.

New from trend-setting Parisian home furnishing designer Catherine Memmi is the Les Vegetables collection of bath, body and home products. Inspired by the fragrance of gardens bursting with plants and vegetables, the line includes candles, room sprays, shower gels and body lotions scented with cucumber, herbs, sage and more. Available at C.O. Bigelow in New York City or at www.bigelowchemists.com.

From Davies Gate, the GardenMade Collection is filled with extracts of herbs and veggies. GardenMade Body Lotion, \$18, is packed with parsley and other natural plant oils and extracts to soothe and soften winter-chapped skin. Fennel Face Exfoliator, \$25, contains crushed fennel seeds and green papaya to remove dead skin cells and toxins. GardenMade Perfume Concentrate, \$25, contains essences of sweet basil, rosemary and blue and clary sage. Available at department stores or at www.daviesgate.com.

If your budget won't cover a winter spa break, try Calgon's new Ahh ... Spa! Tropics line. Revitalizing Hand & Foot Cream with Avocado, \$6.95, hydrates skin with avocado and vitamin E. Available at national food and drug chains.

Turkish-German film tops Berlin Festival

By HANNAH LOBEL
AP WRITER

The story of a young Turkish-German woman who marries a man she doesn't love to escape her conservative Islamic family won the top prize at the Berlin Film Festival on Saturday.

Directed by Fatih Akin—a German of Turkish parents—"Gegen die Wand" ("Head On") chronicles the life of Sibel, played by Sibel Kekilli, who marries a beer-guzzling, middle-aged Turkish-German punk.

Another tale of a child from an immigrant family, Daniel Burman's "El abrazo partido" (Lost Embrace) won the runner-up Silver Bear film award.

The film follows Ariel, a young Argentinian Jew, whose attempts to gain a Polish passport through his grandmother's original citizenship, leads him to

explore his father's decision to fight for Israel.

The best actor award went to the film's star, Daniel Hendler.

Best directing honors went to South Korean director Kim Ki-Duk for "Samaria" (Samaritan Girl), the tragic account of a teenage girl's sexual exploitation.

For the second year in a row, the jury recognized more than one actress for leading performance, granting Silver Bears to both Charlize Theron, for her role in "Monster," and Catalina Sandino Moreno for "Maria, Illeña eres de gracia" (Maria Full of Grace).

Theron, who is also up for an Oscar for the part, went through a remarkable transformation in the film, putting on 30 pounds and wearing false teeth to portray Florida serial killer Aileen Wuornos. But Theron said it was her research into the executed killer's life

that provided the foundation for her performance.

"If you do those things without any kind of core it becomes meaningless," Theron told reporters after the film screened at the festival. "Everything about her physically was a mirror or a map to what she had gone through emotionally."

The episodic, day-in-the-life film "Om Jag Vaender Mig Om" (Daybreak) from Swedish director Bjoern Runge received the Blue Angel award for the best European film.

Banda Osiris picked up a Silver Bear for best score in "Primo Amore" (First Love), by Italian director Matteo Garrone.

The prizes were announced by the head of the festival's seven-member jury, American actress Frances McDormand, and her fellow juror German producer Peter Rommel.

2nd death anniversary

Woman looks for man her age who is ready to settle down

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: I am 23 and single. I am always hearing about women suffering from midlife crises, but have you ever heard of a mid-20s one? My single friends and I all seem to have the same problem. We are out of college and beyond our days of "flings." So why is it that while we are ready to settle down and meet someone, the men our age act like they are still in college? Is there anywhere I can meet someone mature AND my age? Should I go to church to find someone, like my mom says? Look to older men? Or am I doomed 'til I'm over 30?



Dear Abby

RORY IN CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

DEAR RORY: In the 1950s, "success" for girls was defined as marrying early and having children. Since then, however, more women have jobs and careers, and it is not unusual for men and women to get graduate degrees before thinking about marriage. Couple that with the fact that an adolescent mentality seems to have stretched beyond the teens into the mid-to-late 20s, and it's not surprising that many young men do not feel ready to commit.

You may have to expand your horizons a bit in the age department if you want to settle down now. Consider someone in his late 20s. Then go where like-minded people gather: graduate school, special-interest clubs, volunteer organizations, square or line dancing, church or a political-action group.

Remember that it's important to take the time to really get to know someone before you give your heart — or anything else.

DEAR ABBY: This is an update on Project Lifesaver, a new nonprofit police organization that locates wandering victims of Alzheimer's disease and special-needs kids using electronic tracking. Your columns devoted to dementia prompted me to write, since our service allows seniors to remain at home longer and gives much-needed stress reduction to their caregivers.

To date, Project Lifesaver has located 878 people in an average rescue time of 19 to 20 minutes. There have been no deaths or injuries, and everyone reported missing has been located. According to the National Alzheimer's Association, an average of 32,000 people wander away from homes and nursing homes each year.

Those at risk of wandering wear a 1-ounce wrist transmitter that emits a radio tracking signal 24/7. When caregivers discover their loved one is missing, they call 911, and Project Lifesaver-trained police officers respond to locate the person quickly.

The system works day or night, inside or outside. The price for the service through the police department ranges from free to \$35 per month, depending on financial need. Project Lifesaver is currently in about 200 police departments.

Caregivers interested in Project Lifesaver for their community should contact their local police or sheriff's department and ask them to contact me at the Chesapeake, Va., Sheriff's SAR Unit at (757) 546-5502. Thank you.

CHIEF GENE SAUNDERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
PROJECT LIFESAVER

DEAR CHIEF SAUNDERS: Be careful what you wish for. Project Lifesaver sounds like a terrific public service to me. I'm pleased to make my readers aware of it. Get ready for the onslaught!

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$10 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Singer Orrico decries Spears, Aguilera

By GILLIAN WONG
AP WRITER

Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera promote "degrading" sexuality that makes them bad role models for young girls, U.S. chart-topping Christian singer Stacie Orrico said Saturday before the MTV Asia Awards.

Asian divas swept many of the night's awards, with Hong Kong's Sammi Cheng, Malaysia's Siti Nurhaliza and Singapore's Stefanie Sun each earning the top Favorite Artist Award from voters in their home countries for the third year in a row.

Performances by the U.S. rap group Black Eyed Peas, Javier from Indonesia and Korean pop diva BoA brought the 7,000-strong crowd of mostly teenage girls to its feet. This is the third year Singapore has hosted the awards show, held in the city-state's Indoor Stadium.

British boy band Blue and Russian pop duo Tatu bagged Favorite Pop Act and Breakthrough Artist, respectively.

American multi-platinum megastar Mariah Carey made a surprise appearance and was honored with a Lifetime Achievement award. Carey said she was honored by her Asian fans—though added that the region's continuing bird flu outbreak had made her think twice about coming.

"But the show must go on," she said.

Ten Asian countries and territories have been hit by the flu—but not Singapore.

Orrico, the fresh-faced pop singer from Nashville, Tenn., told reporters before her performance at the awards that it worries her to see girls emulating Spears and Aguilera.

"The reason that I don't dress trashy is that I'm trying to set an example for little girls," Orrico said. "From the time they're seven or eight years old, (girls) are being taught that the only thing that makes them special and beautiful is their sexuality, and I think that's wrong."

Orrico, wearing a loose,



AP
U.S. singer Stacie Orrico arrives for the MTV Asia Awards Saturday, Feb. 14, 2004, in Singapore. The MTV Asia Awards, which draw artists from Asia and other international countries, were held in the city-state for the 3rd year running.

long-sleeved white shirt and jeans, said she doesn't approve of the revealing clothes sported by Spears and Aguilera.

"I don't think that's sexy, I think it's degrading," the bubbly 17-year-old said. "I think that (being) a truly sexy woman comes from being

confident and being classy, respectable and mature."

The singer also weighed in on Janet Jackson's breast-baring incident at the Super Bowl, calling the stunt "unnecessary."

"I definitely don't think that she's a good example," Orrico said.

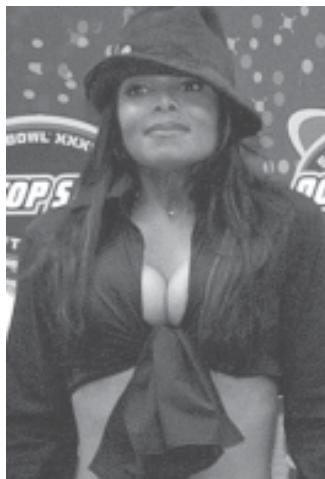
Janet Jackson awarded for charity work

In her first public appearance since her breast was exposed during the Super Bowl halftime show, Janet Jackson received an award for her humanitarian and charitable contributions.

Behind the Bench, an association of wives of NBA players, honored Jackson at their annual fund-raiser Friday at the Beverly Hills Hotel.

"She has done a wonderful job giving back to communities across America. That fact has not changed," Behind the Bench spokesman Vince McCaskill said. "She was on board with this seven months ago. We never even considered her not being here."

Jackson had not appeared in



AP
Janet Jackson poses for photographers following a news conference touting the halftime show of Super Bowl XXXVIII in Houston in this Jan. 29, 2004 file photo.

public since singer Justin Timberlake tore off part of her costume, exposing her breast, during a performance in front of some 90 million television viewers. The stunt prompted a Federal Communications Commission investigation, and Jackson released a videotaped apology. Timberlake also apologized.

Behind the Bench, formed in 1995, has raised nearly \$1 million for charities in Los Angeles, the host city of this year's NBA All-Star game.

Previous award recipients include Hank Aaron, Muhammad Ali, Dorothy Height, Alonzo Mourning and David Robinson. (AP)

Orrico was nominated for Best Breakthrough Artist. "Stacie Orrico" made No. 5 on Billboard's Top Contemporary Christian Albums list this month.

Malaysian actress Michelle Yeoh paid a touching tribute to the late Hong Kong singer Anita Mui at the awards, bringing a somber moment to an otherwise rowdy ceremony.

"We're very fortunate that she touched the world in so many ways," said Yeoh, who received Mui's posthumous Inspiration Award on the late singer's behalf. Mui died last year after of cervical cancer. "Her legacy will live on with us," Yeoh said.

In keeping with a romantic Valentine's Day theme, this year's trophies depicted Cupids.

At news conference separate from Orrico's, Blue accused the media of blowing the Jackson incident out of proportion but also called it "disgusting."

"You lot lap it up, that's why they do it, because you lot write about it and it makes front-page news in every bloody country," said Duncan James, one of Blue's four singers. "But then you're promoting it!"

Dylan, Nelson, Matthews join Bonnaroo

Bob Dylan, Willie Nelson and Dave Matthews are among dozens of performers headlining the 2004 Bonnaroo Music Festival this summer.

In its third year, the festival will be held June 11-13, organizers announced Friday. Tickets go on sale Feb. 21 on the festival's Web site.

Rolling Stone magazine called Bonnaroo "the rock festival to end all rock festivals" in 2003 and the event was named "Festival of the Year" by Pollstar magazine in 2002.

Last year, 80,000 tickets were sold in less than three weeks.

"I think the festival is a very special event, and I think word of that has spread throughout the music community," said Ashley Capps of A.C. Entertainment in Knoxville. "The artists are well aware that the fans want them to be here."

Capps said an extra 10,000 tickets will be available this year because the festival leased additional land next to the event's main site, a 600-acre farm about 60 miles southeast of Nashville. (AP)



Nelson

Pastimes

WONDERWORD® By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE CLASSIFIED Solution: 10 letters

S	T	R	E	P	A	P	S	W	E	N	S	A	L	E
R	N	C	U	E	A	L	L	E	S	F	A	M	S	
A	E	O	P	R	I	N	T	S	E	R	V	I	C	E
C	R	N	I	U	S	E	I	E	R	K	S	S	T	B
G	A	D	L	T	C	W	S	M	C	L	I	E	F	U
P	S	O	C	I	A	L	E	V	A	R	T	N	I	Y
R	G	A	F	N	S	D	D	N	A	L	P	I	G	S
O	F	F	T	R	A	T	O	B	R	C	S	L	S	S
M	O	E	E	U	P	S	I	M	O	P	L	E	H	E
O	D	A	S	F	R	E	S	N	M	A	M	U	S	N
T	D	E	A	(E)	D	D	T	T	G	O	T	M	B	I
I	D	C	P	(P)	E	A	N	S	H	S	C	N	O	S
O	E	A	P	(Y)	C	R	E	T	L	L	A	C	J	U
N	A	P	L	(T)	S	T	V	H	O	U	S	E	A	B
S	L	S	Y	C	A	R	E	R	S	K	I	L	L	

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2/16 Accommodations, Acres, Animals, Apply, Boat, Business, Buys, Call, Careers, Cars, Clubs, Condo, Contact, Deal, Events, Facts, Farms, Fees, Furniture, Gift, Group, Head, Help, Homes, House, Jobs, Land, Lines, Listings, Logo, Newspaper, Office, Personals, Pets, Print, Promotions, Read, Rent, Sale, Seeking, Sell, Service, Skill, Social, Space, Trade, Travel, Type, Used, Wanted.
Last Saturday's Answer: Gloves
NOTE: Postage and handling charges have changed for The Collected Wonderword. Add \$3 for the first book ordered, \$1 more for each additional book. Volumes 17 and 18 are \$6.95 each, payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Send to WONDERWORD, 4900 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free 1-800-255-6794, ext. 663.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Tater
- 5 Opal or onyx
- 8 Man with a clan
- 12 Phoenician city
- 13 "Today I — man"
- 14 Mah-jongg piece
- 15 Historic periods
- 16 Apple pastry
- 18 Courteous
- 20 Grad-to-be
- 21 Stare open-mouthed
- 23 Conger, for one
- 24 Traitor
- 28 Parent shakers
- 31 Rush-more carving
- 32 Tiber port
- 34 Menagerie
- 35 Talent
- 37 Prison staffers
- 39 Blunder

DOWN

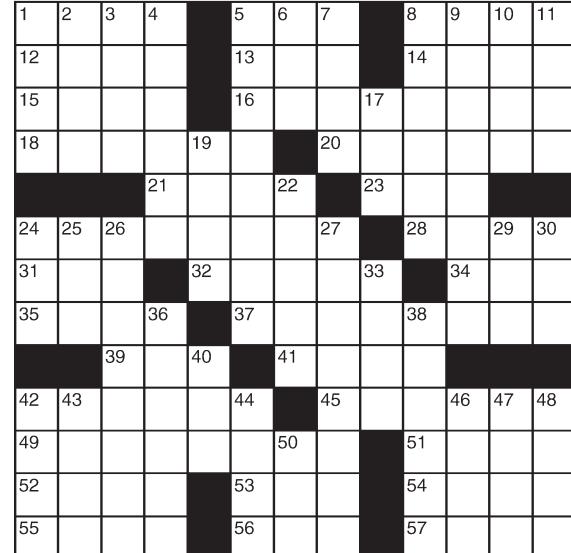
- 1 Dance lesson
- 52 In — way (ailing)
- 53 Insult (Sl.)
- 54 Relaxation
- 55 Guys' counter-parts
- 56 Office-holders
- 57 Coaster
- 58 Saturday's answer 2-16

Solution time: 24 mins.

L	A	S	E	R	M	A	R	G	I	N
T	U	R	T	L	A	V	E	R	S	E
I	N	L	A	I	D	N	O	V	E	L
P	E	O	N	S	C	O	W	T	E	T
A	B	S	L	A	M	R	H	U	M	
V	I	C	E	P	R	E	S	I	D	
E	X	A	M	T	R	A	M	N	O	V
P	U	G	A	L	P	O				
F	L	U	R	E	S	T	P	A	L	O
O	I	L	I	E	R	D	I	T	O	R
R	E	A	D	E	R	N	O	I	R	
K	N	E	A	D	S	S	E	E	M	S

Saturday's answer 2-16

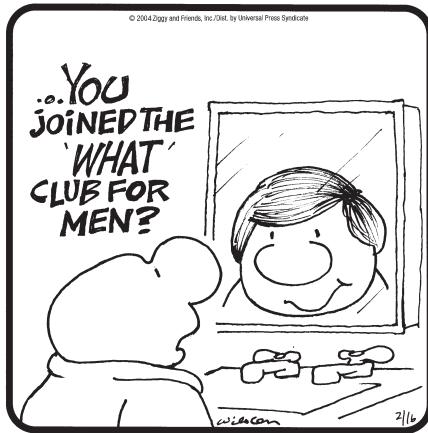
50 Family



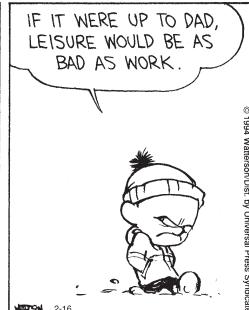
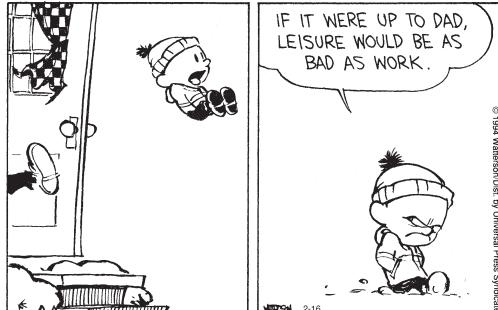
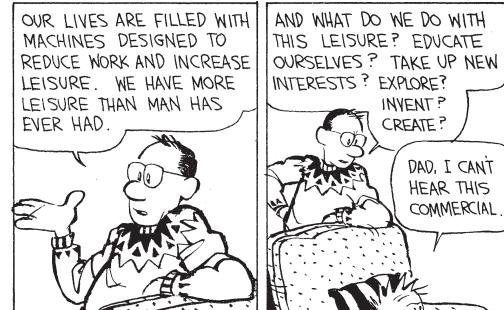
For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5951! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

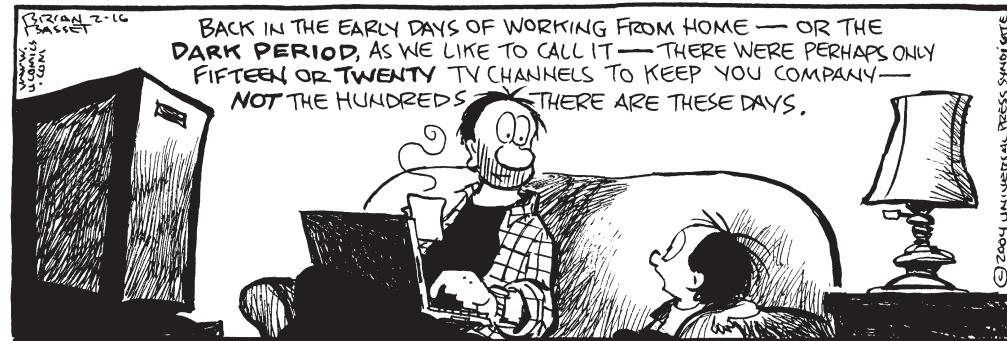
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Calvin and Hobbes



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By Glenn McCoy

Team Standings**Group A**

SIP-Verizon	4	0
Bayani	2	2
SMF	2	2
CCA	2	2
MDX	0	4

Group B

Visminda	4	1
Cabalen	4	1
Mobil-LIPS	4	1
Bicol	1	3
MIFICPA	1	3
Samahang Laguna	0	5



Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	T
Yankees	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	1	7
Academy	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	2	1	8

SPORTS BRIEFS

Kwame Brown leads Wizards past Pacers



WASHINGTON (AP)—Kwame Brown had a career-high 25 points and nine rebounds Saturday as the Washington Wizards shot 63 percent in the first half and held on to beat the Indiana Pacers 107-96.

“It’s coming together,” said Brown, the top pick straight out of high school in the 2001 draft. “I’m a lot more comfortable. Not as jittery, taking my shots when I have it.”

Brown made eight of 12 shots, nine of 10 free throws and had the better in a matchup against fellow straight-out-of-high-schoolers Jermaine O’Neal and Al Harrington. Brown, who has struggled for consistency over much of his career, is averaging 13 points and 7.8 rebounds over his last 11 games.

“Let’s see some consistency,” Washington coach Eddie Jordan said. “We’re not going to gloat. We love what happened tonight. We’re not going to say he’s arrived, because it’s all about consistency.”

Steve Blake added a career-high 18 points for the Wizards, who never trailed and have won three of four.

Harrington scored 21 points for the Pacers, who were done in by poor outside shooting as they lost their second game in as many nights following a five-game winning streak. Indiana was 1-for-14 from 3-point range at one point in the fourth quarter and finished 5-for-22.

Warriors 105, Trail Blazers 87

In Portland, Oregon, Jason Richardson scored 31 points, including seven 3-pointers as Golden State beat Portland to end a 12-game road losing streak.

Erick Dampier added 20 rebounds and 18 points, and Speedy Claxton had 15 points, seven assists and five steals.

Zach Randolph had 23 points and seven rebounds for the Trail Blazers, while Rasheed Wallace added 13 points and nine rebounds.

Darius Miles played for the first time since being traded to the Trail



Blazers by Cleveland for guard Jeff McInnis and center Ruben Boumtje Boumtje. Miles scored 12 points in 20 minutes.

Heat 85, Knicks 77

In New York, Eddie Jones scored 26 points and added six assists as Miami handed New York its first loss at Madison Square Garden under coach Lenny Wilkens.

Lamar Odom had 19 points, nine rebounds and five assists, and Caron Butler scored 17 for the Heat as they avenged two lopsided losses to the Knicks earlier this season.

Michael Doleac scored 18 and Penny Hardaway 16 for the Knicks, whose reserves outscored their starters 39-38. Doleac and Hardaway each played 32 minutes while Keith Van Horn played 26 and Houston 23.

Cavaliers 95, 76ers 87

In Cleveland, Eric Williams scored 20 points, Dajuan Wagner added 17 and Cleveland finally slowed down Philadelphia star Allen Iverson in the fourth quarter.

Carlos Boozer had 15 points and 15 rebounds as the Cavs improved to 2-1 without rookie star LeBron James, who missed his third straight game with a sprained right ankle.

Iverson scored 32 points—21 in the third.

Glenn Robinson had 20 points for the injury-riddled Sixers, who have lost six of eight.

Hornets 98, Spurs 96

In San Antonio, Darrell Armstrong capped a season-high 35-point performance by hitting a 3-pointer from 9-meters (25 feet) with a second left to lead New Orleans to a come-from-behind victory over San Antonio.

Armstrong finished 11-for-21 from the field and was a perfect 9-for-9 from

Washington Wizards’ Etan Thomas (36) scores on Indiana Pacers’ Jermaine O’Neal, behind, during the first quarter Saturday, Jan. 24, 2004, in Washington. AP

the free throw line. He also nailed an 18-meter (53-foot) basket with a second left in the first half to close the Spurs’ lead to 52-41.

The Spurs took an 18-point lead with five minutes left in the third, going up 69-51 after Tim Duncan dunked off an alley-oop pass from Manu Ginobili before New Orleans came back behind Armstrong.

Malik Rose led the Spurs with 20 points.

Lakers 93, Jazz 86

In Salt Lake City, Kobe Bryant returned from the injured list and scored 21 points to help the Los Angeles Lakers beat Utah to snap a nine-game road losing streak.

Bryant missed six games because of a sprained right shoulder. He felt good during the team shootaround earlier in the day and was activated.

Slava Medvedenko of the Ukraine tied his career high with 26 points for the Lakers, who let a 19-point lead slip to three twice before sealing their first road win since a 114-103 victory over Dallas on Dec. 4.

DeShawn Stevenson led Utah with 17 points.

SuperSonics 102, Clippers 97

In Seattle, Ray Allen scored 17 of his 41 points in the fourth quarter as Seattle took advantage of the Los Angeles Clippers’ 4-for-19 3-point shooting.

The Sonics beat the Clippers for the third straight time this season, following two season-opening wins over Los Angeles in October.

Allen shot 14-for-23, including 6-for-10 from 3-point range, in finishing one point shy of his season best. Rashard Lewis, who had a career-high 50 points against the Clippers in the second game in Japan, added 15 points and Antonio Daniels came off the bench to score 14 for the Sonics.

The Clippers got 26 points and 16 rebounds from Elton Brand, 25 points and 10 rebounds from Maggette and 22 points from Quentin Richardson.

Mickelson, Triplett share Bob Hope lead

By KEN PETERS
AP SPORTS WRITER

 **LA QUINTA, Calif.** (AP)—Kirk Triplett shot a 9-under 63 Saturday, remaining bogey-free in the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic and tying Phil Mickelson for the lead at 26 under.

Triplett has 24 birdies, an eagle and 47 pars through 72 holes in the 90-hole tournament. Mickelson, making his 2004 debut, shot a 67 at Bermuda Dunes but still saw his two-shot lead evaporate. He won the Hope in 2002.

Kenny Perry, the 1995 champion, had consecutive eagles in his second 64 of the tournament and was one shot behind the co-leaders at 25-under 263.

Triplett who won the Reno-Tahoe Open last year for his second tour victory, holed a bunker shot for an eagle on No. 5 at Indian Wells Country Club, and made a twisting 20-foot birdie putt on No. 11 to highlight his fourth round.

John Daly had a rare double eagle on No. 2 at PGA West. Daly holed his second shot from 220 yards on the 514-

yard par 5. He finished the round with a 72 and was 15 under.

Jay Haas, the 1988 champion and runner-up to Mike Weir a year ago, was two shots off the pace after a 67.

Perry gained four strokes to par with his consecutive eagles on the par-5 fifth and sixth holes at La Quinta Country Club.

He hit a 4-iron that stopped 12 feet past the hole on the 516-yard No. 5 and drilled the putt.

He hit another fine approach, a 3-iron from 229 yards on the 527-yard sixth hole. He curved the ball to the right and around a bunker, and the ball rolled within 8 feet. He sank that putt to pick up four shots in two holes and go to 24 under at that point.

Perry acknowledged the applause from the gallery with a wave, and shook his head, grinning.

Five others, including 2000 winner Jesper Parnevik at 266, were within four shots of the leaders.

Mickelson, making his 2004 debut and looking for his first win in 18 months, was somewhat inconsistent during his fourth round - ranging from

a 40-foot birdie putt that he snaked into the hole to a drive into the water and a bogey on No. 10.

By comparison to Triplett’s zero bogeys, Mickelson had four bogeys through the first 72 holes.

The first four rounds of the Hope are played as a pro-am on four courses, with the players alternating daily. The field was cut to the low-scoring 70 pros and ties for the final round at PGA West.

It took a 72-hole score of 277 - 11 under - or better to make the cut.

Scores traditionally are very low, with the desert courses relatively easy, and most of the par 5s reachable in two shots. Weir won at 30-under 330 last year, Mickelson also was 30 under a year earlier when he won a playoff with David Berganio Jr., and Joe Durant set a tour record for a 90-hole tournament with a 36-under 324 in 2001.

Phil Mickelson watches his drive from the 13th tee box Saturday, Jan. 24, 2004 at the Bermuda Dunes Country Club in Palm Desert, Calif., during the fourth round of the Bob Hope Chrysler tournament.



SPORTS BRIEFS**Table tennis singles tourney tomorrow**

The Marianas Amateur Table Tennis Association is inviting the public to join the 2004 MATTA Open Singles Table Tennis Tournament.

The tournament will begin tomorrow and will continue throughout the rest of the month. It will be held Tuesday and Thursday nights at the multi-purpose room of the Gilbert C. Ada Ada Gymnasium.

The tournament format will be round-robin type of competition for the initial round where each participant will play all the other members of their division once.

Those who win the most games will move on to the elimination phase and playoffs.

Admission fee for the tournament will be \$10 per participant. Trophies will be presented to the winners of their respective divisions during an after-tournament dinner.

Children who wish to participate should inform their parents and ask for their consent. For more information please call Steve Lim at 483-7842.

21st Island Relay set for Dec. 28

Officials of the 21st Annual Christmas Island Relay announced that this year's 13.7-mile team event is set to take place during the early morning hours of December 28.

The starting point of the course will be at the Pacific Islands Club south parking lot. Participants will then head north and work their way to the finish line at the Last Command Post in Marpi.

Interested teams may register at the starting point of the race, which will be at the Pacific Islands Club south parking lot in San Antonio. Registration begins at 5:15am.

Each team, which consists of five members, must switch runners every mile. It is also required that each team has at least one female participant or a participant who is under the age of 16 or in the senior division. Prior to competing, all teams must pay a fee of \$25.

For more information about the 21st Annual Christmas Island Relay, please contact Elias Rangamar at 234-1001 or 1002.

Budweiser Cup on Jan. 12

Officials of the much-awaited Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands Budweiser Cup have decided to push back the kick off date of the 2003 island-wide men's basketball season to January 12 of next year.

So far, 10 teams have shown interest in participating in the league. Only eight, however, are confirmed to battle for the championship crown and the \$1,000 grand prize that goes along with it. Also at stake are the \$300 prize for the runner-up and the \$200 award for the second runner-up.

Each team interested in taking part in the season is required to pay an entrance fee of \$900 that must be payable to BANMI.

Aside from the prizes awarded to the top three finishers, other prizes may be claimed through a half-court shot competition and a three-point contest.

For more information, please contact Rangamar at 664-2500 or Abner Venus at 234-5911.

SPG Council launches logo contest

The South Pacific Games Council Executive Board has announced that it will be selecting a new logo for the SPG Council. The winning logo will be selected from designs submitted through the national sports federations represented on the Council.

The contest is open to everyone. The general public is invited to submit design proposals. The Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association will select one or more of the designs submitted to it, for transmission to the SPG Council.

All entries should be submitted to NMASA President Michael A. White. The selection of a new design will take place at the SPG Council assembly in Palau next year.

For further information, please contact White at telephone 234-6547.

IT'S CABALEN

From Page 28

Lopez 6, Miday 5, Mumar 2.

Second Game

Cabalen-RP Construction

121-Mendoza 25, Delos Reyes 35, Ocampo 13, Alipio 12, Arnedo 12, Jo. Gatdula 6, Magcalas 5, Sinca 3, Barbo 2.

SIP-Verizon 103-R. Alegre 19, Mendoza 18, Guiab 14, Factor 13, Rapanut 13, Villacrusis 9, T. Alegre 7, Tamondong 5, Flores 3, Garcia 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-27, 59-50, 90-79, 121-103.

First Game

UFO All-Stars 53-Mendiola 20, Malasarte 13, Pardinan 10, Gatdula 6, Canedo 4.

Bicol-RNV Construction 44

-Jugos 15, Aldan 10, Abadilla 6,

Sequioco tops Tuesday pool

By MARK RABAGO
REPORTER



Boyet Sequioco put together another perfect run last Tuesday to win the Round Two 8-Ball Fun Tournament that evening at the pioneering sports bar.

The Olangapo, Zambales native triumphed three straight times after getting a bye in the opening round then turned back a courageous effort by Ike Celis to win the Tuesday 8-ball plum.

Sequioco first victimized Cherish Reyes in the second round before getting the better of Celis in the next round. He then slammed perennial pool winner Manny Mariano in the winners' bracket final to secure the first finals berth and the all-important twice-to-beat advantage.

Celis, for his part, had to work double time after being relegated to losers' bracket play by the crafty Sequioco.

The silver-haired Celis rebounded quickly and nicely by first beating Round Two owner Don Pangelinan. He then eliminated top lady player Rosemarie Moses-Arnold before moving on to the losers' bracket final opposite Mariano.

The outing against Mariano was where Celis truly shone, as the veteran pool player shocked the Filipino cue artist and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left: Third place Manny Mariano, Round Two 8-Ball Fun Tournament champion Boyet Sequioco, and runner-up Ike Celis.

arranged a championship round meeting with third round conqueror Sequioco.

Unfortunately for Celis his sparkling run apparently ran out in the deciding match against Sequioco, allowing the Hafa Adai security guard to come away with the weekly pool title. He won a handsome trophy and the \$40 top prize for his efforts.

Celis settled for the \$25 runner-up purse, while Mariano took home the \$15 third place

prize. All three men also got souvenir caps from Pacific Trading Co.

Other billiard players that graced the Tuesday 8-ball competition were Gary Ridley, Lars and Palacios.

The Round Two 8-Ball Tournament is held every Tuesday starting at 8pm and has an entry fee of \$10.

Round Two also regularly hosts two other pool tournaments through the course

of the week. Its winner-take-all pool tournament is held every Sunday starting at 1pm and costs \$5 to join.

On Thursdays, Round Two holds the exciting Miller Lite Invitational 8-Ball Tournament starting at 8pm. Entry fee is \$15 on regular days but goes up to \$25 every last Thursday of the month.

For more information on Round Two's tournaments, please contact Don Pangelinan at 234-6930.

ROCBALL

From Page 28

WATTS, wrote that that the program, which features shows on different sports from around the world, would like to attain footage, pictures, and information of Rocball for airing.

Feger also confirmed that he will send a couple of videotapes, information about the history of the sport, rules, and several articles and news clippings to Chimienti.

Eurosport reaches over 95 million homes in 54 countries.

Also being attracted to the sport is Brian Meredith, an operation manager for CrackerJax, a sports-theme

amusement park in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Meredith stated in his letter to Feger that he is currently searching for ways to make their three volleyball courts useful, and was intrigued after coming across some information about Rocball while browsing through the Internet.

Meredith added that he is trying to modify the courts to Rocball standards and is working towards starting a Rocball league.

"I can't believe that nobody in America plays this sport," Meredith stated.

Last year, Feger scheduled a special match featuring 2001 and 2002 champions DX and Jammers, which was taped and

sent to the Fox Sports Show "You Gotta See This." Fox Sports Show's Associate Producer Eric Hopkins expressed his interest in the sport. Camera crews were set up at courtside and on the roof of the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

He also sent a couple of videotapes, written information, and graphics to the Rocball Federation of India.

In related news, the World Organized Rocball Interscholastic and Community League's 2004 season is set to get underway on January 12.

Teams will engage in several practice rounds prior to seeing battle in the preliminary rounds, which is expected to kick off just

a couple of weeks later.

All interested players are encouraged to begin organizing squads for the league, which unlike other sporting events, doesn't require an entrance fee.

All matches will be played at the Marianas High School Green Court. Should Mother Nature interrupt with wet showers, matches will be played at the school's gym.

Feger began organizing and writing about the sport while in Japan in 1979. After two years of experimenting, the sport finally progressed into a tournament in 1983.

For more information, please contact Feger at 664-3810 or 288-8722.

LOVE

From Page 28

on the next two holes, then easily reached the par-5 11th with a 5-iron to set up his fourth straight birdie.

"I had my pompons out, cheering him on," Woods said. "I told him on the 10th tee I was two ahead. He said, 'How's that?' I told him I was getting a stroke a hole."

Love smiled when asked about Woods' comments.

"I didn't want to stick my hand in the cage and ask him if he wanted strokes," Love said.

Indeed, Love put seven shots between him and Woods over the first nine holes, and it left himself in great position to become the

first repeat winner of the Target World Challenge since Woods created it five years ago.

Love won in 2000 with a 64 in the final round.

It would be a great way to end his best season on tour. Love won four times, and no victory bigger than his final-round 64 at The Players Championship on a cold, windy day at Sawgrass.

While this tournament only counts in the bank - \$1.2 million of the \$5 million purse going to the winner - a victory would be meaningful coming against a 16-man field of high-ranked players and three of the four major champions.

Plus, Love has played the last two rounds with Woods, a

situation that in the past hasn't allowed him to play his best.

Love has worked all year to worry about only his own game. In fact, he was having dinner with friends Friday night when they told him to beat Woods.

"K.J. is the guy to beat right now," Love said. "People don't see it the way we do. You've got to beat the golf course."

Harrington missed a 3-foot par putt on the final hole for a 70 and was in third place at 211, six shots behind. Masters champion Mike Weir, who opened with a 75, had a 3-under 69 and was at 212.

Choi is making his first appearance in the final event of the year, and would like nothing

better to end his season with a victory - even though it doesn't count in the record books and won't get him back to Kapalua.

"It would be even better ... because of the field," Choi said.

Catching up to Love could require a great round, especially the way Love is playing. The calm, warmer conditions allowed the ball to travel farther and the power hitters to play more aggressively.

Love's only bogey came on a three-putt from 15 feet, when his eyes saw only the hole and not the speed of the putt; he ran it 8 feet by and missed the par putt.

"Other than that, I felt like I could make birdie on every hole," Love said. "And I almost did."



Trail Blazers defeat the Lakers, 112-108

Damon Stoudamire hit two 3-pointers in the final minutes and the Portland Trail Blazers handed the Los Angeles Lakers their second loss in two nights with a 112-108 victory Saturday night.

25

Saipan Tribune Sports

28 MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2003

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

It's Cabalen against Visminda

By MARK RABAGO
REPORTER

Cabalen-RP Construction reaffirmed their mastery over SIP-Verizon dethroning the three-time defending champion with a 121-103 rout Sunday night that secured them a finals ticket opposite Visminda-Country House in the 2003 UFO Miller Lite Cup championship.

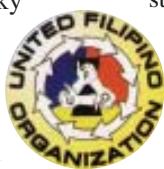
The Transamerica-backed squad atoned for a shaky start, which had them trail SIP-Verizon 27-24 after the opening quarter, with a terrific second quarter.

Big man Ronald Delos Reyes, the goat in Cabalen's 103-108 loss to Visminda last week, came back strong and hit a couple of triples in the second stanza to start the fireworks for Cabalen.

Youthful center Ryan Mendoza, meanwhile, complemented Delos Reyes' sharpshooting ways by scoring 12 points from point blank range also in the second quarter.

The combination of efficient outside shooting and strong inside play translated to a 59-50 halftime advantage for Cabalen.

SIP-Verizon, whose players



RP Construction dethrones SIP, 121-103

came in late due to a mix-up in scheduling, continued to take on water and struggled mightily in the second half.

Cabalen's aggressive game had their opponents on the defensive during the early part of the third period. Another 3-pointer by Delos Reyes at the 8:03 mark of the quarter gave Cabalen its biggest lead so far at 68-54.

A few plays later, Mendoza struck again on the inside to pad their edge further at 72-54 with 6:47 remaining in the period.

Following a putback by Delos Reyes on a miss free throw off a 3-point opportunity by Mendoza, the score stood at 89-68 with less than two minutes left in the third.

But SIP-Verizon was far from gone and retaliated with an 11-3 burst to close the quarter that cut their deficit to 90-79.

Cabalen's Mendoza also chipped in to SIP-Verizon's cause, inadvertently making a layup on SIP-Verizon's basket after an inbound play following a timeout with 31 ticks to go.

The big end-game rally, however, didn't materialize for SIP-Verizon as Cabalen went on a 9-2 tear highlighted by an off-balanced 3-point play

thwarted all attempts at an uprising and maintained their healthy lead all throughout the final quarter.

There were still a lot of scary moments though. With Cabalen up 96-84, SIP-Verizon forward Gary Rapanut missed a routine layup that could've cut the lead to 10 points.

At the 5:31 mark of the game Edsel Mendoza missed two tries from the free throw line and in the succeeding SIP-Verizon offensive, newly arrived Leo Factor missed the bonus free throw on a 3-point play that could've slashed Cabalen's lead again to 10 points.

With SIP-Verizon still within striking distance swingman Junar Guiab was hit with his fifth personal foul with 4:05 to go. Shortly after Factor followed him to the showers.

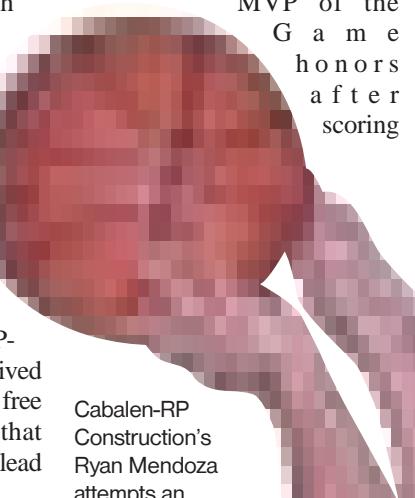
Playing-coach Rick Alegre's coast-to-coast layup made it 108-97 with 2:52 left in the game but that appeared to be SIP-Verizon's last gasp as Cabalen went on a 9-2 tear highlighted by an off-balanced 3-point play

by Randy Arnedo that, for all intents and purpose, sealed the game at 117-99 with 1:33 remaining.

Mendoza earned Miller Lite MVP of the Game honors after scoring

35 points, which was the same output submitted by Delos Reyes. Veterans Alex Ocampo, Jun Alipio added 13 and 12 points, respectively.

Rick Alegre topscored for SIP-Verizon with 19 points. Edsel Mendoza chipped in 16 points and Guiab 14 before See IT'S CABALEN on Page 27



Cabalen-RP Construction's Ryan Mendoza attempts an undergoal stab against SIP-Verizon's Leo Factor during the third quarter of their do-or-die 2003 UFO Miller Lite match Sunday night.

MARK RABAGO

Rocball gains interest yet again

By SHAN SEMAN
REPORTER

 Saipan's very own sport, Rocball, is steadily gaining more interest from the outside world.

This was learned late last week after founder and organizer James Feger announced that he has received e-mails from a couple organizations, Eurosport TV and a sports amusement park in Arizona, interested in gaining more information about the sport.

Eurosport, the most widely available sports channel in Europe, has made contact with Feger and has shown interest in learning more about the sport for future broadcasting.

In an e-mail letter to Feger, Pablo Chimienti of Eurosport's weekly program See ROBALL on Page 27

Love pulls away from Tiger at Sherwood

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP GOLF WRITER

 THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP)—Davis Love III made four straight birdies to leave Tiger Woods in the dust and pull away from a world-class field Saturday, finishing with a 9-under 63 to build a three-shot lead in the Target World Challenge.

Despite a bogey on the par-3 17th, Love tied the tournament record set last year by Padraig Harrington in the third round. Harrington built a record six-shot lead and hung on to win against Woods.

Love, at 11-under 205, only had a three-shot margin over K.J. Choi (65), although he won't have to worry about Woods.

As most of the leaders were posting birdies on a sunny, benign afternoon at Sherwood, the tournament host gave up ground with a three-putt bogey



Tiger Woods reacts to his approach shot on the 18th hole during the third round of the Target World Challenge, Saturday, Dec. 13, 2003, in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

on No. 3 and then hit his tee shot into the water for a bogey on the next hole.

Woods lost all hope on the final hole, hitting off the pine

straw and coming up well short, into the water, and he had to make a 15-footer for bogey. He had a 72 and was nine shots back at 214.

Meanwhile, Love played some of his best golf since early in the year.

"I was confident all day," Love said. "I'm getting more and more comfortable playing with Tiger and around the lead."

Love was tied with Choi and Justin Leonard when his 4-iron on the difficult par-3 8th climbed just enough to hop into the fringe and stop about 6 feet above the hole for one of only two birdies in the round.

Love holed putts of 20

feet and 15 feet for birdies

See LOVE on Page 27

Sequioco tops Tuesday pool

Boyet Sequioco put together another perfect run last Tuesday to win the Round Two 8-Ball Fun Tournament that evening at the pioneering sports bar.

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